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# Sixty Poets ON THE WHEEL.

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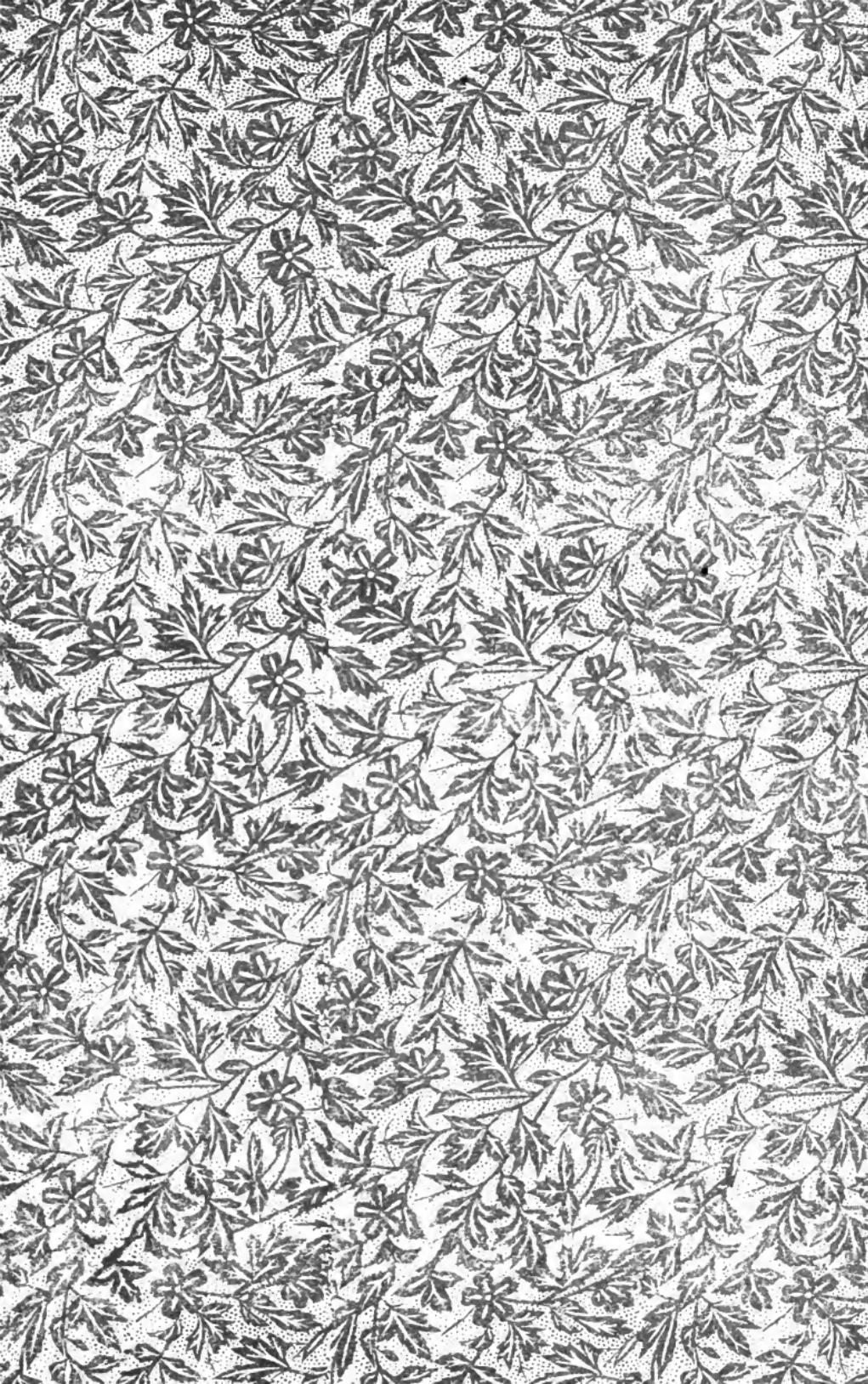
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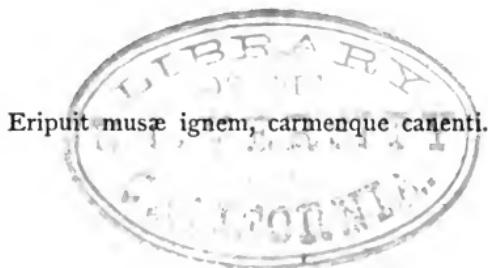


# LYRA BICYCLICA:

*SIXTY POETS ON THE WHEEL.*

BY

JOSEPH G. DALTON.



SECOND EDITION, ENLARGED AND IMPROVED.

BOSTON:  
E. C. HODGES & CO.

1885.

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ELECTROTYPE AND PRINTED

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MAIN

*Bicyclian bards who sung  
Wheely ideas below,  
Which always find us young,  
Or always make us so.*

*Verse, like a choir of poets in its sound,  
All on his seat the rotal poemster sings ;  
And while he turns the vivid wheel around,  
Revolves no sad incertitude of things.*

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## P R E F A T O R Y.

---

THE unprecedented peculiarities of most of the verses herein contained seem to be warrant enough for their collection into a volume. Doubtless a new *Ars poetica*, with a wholly novel subject (though narrow), should float a book, if it be not otherwise insufferably heavy.

The author-compiler is one of the very first Bostonians who, in the latter part of the year 1877, began to ride and write into notice the bicycle in this country. A few words also seem needful here in explanation of his entering upon the manufacture of this "machine poetry,"—such in a fuller sense of the term than it ever had before.

Under the early exhilarating effect of the wiry transit, in a sportive communication to a city paper (the *Globe* of Jan. 9, '78) he called upon our native poets, naming some in particular, to favor us with a song or two for the new move, declaring that its

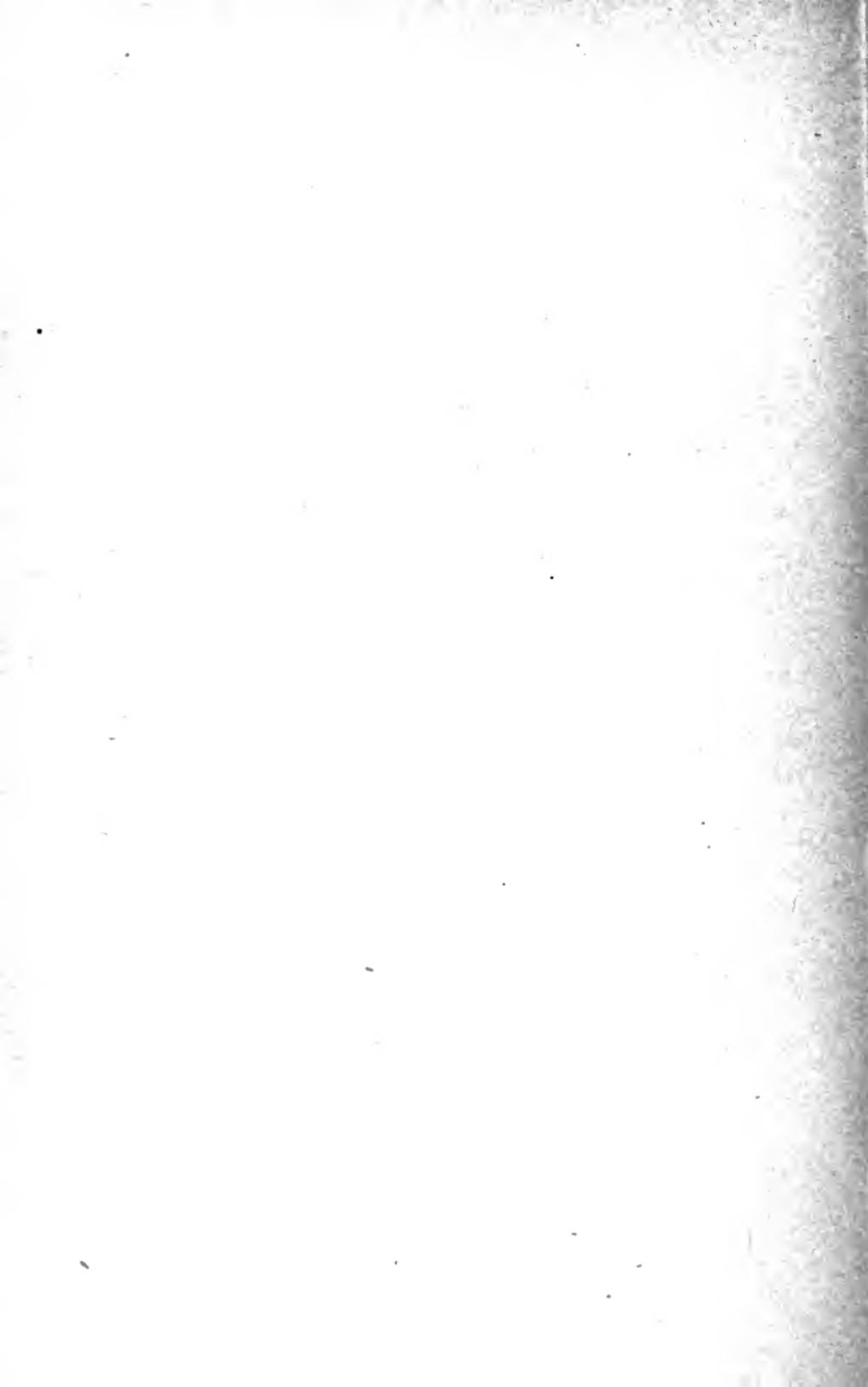
peculiar charms and potencies deserved and awaited an adequate celebration. Strange to say, no response to this invitation was forthcoming, excepting a brief trifle signed O. W. H. (now on p. 22 of this volume) in the same paper a short time after. Thanks for small favors; but, in the opinion of the present writer, sustained bursts of panegyrical song were needed to meet the demands of the occasion! How to get them? Having little confidence in his own capacity for poetry, he sought aid through the old proverb about "birds that can sing and won't sing," and soon hit upon the surprising discovery that the meaning of poems can be extracted, and a new one substituted, without injuring the form. So the Chinese will vacuate an egg or an orange of its original contents, fill it with strange confections, and leave no discernible break. In our case the diligent artificer sometimes sees opportunities of improving the exterior also. From trying this process upon the two distinguished poets who had neglected his modest request, the writer has developed the Bi-lyrical Method, and extended his scheme of confis cation over a very wide extent of various song.— "Insatiate Bicycler, would not two suffice?" says the

gentle reader. Not a bit of it: refused a little, he will ravage much. There are, however, quite a number of pieces radically his own, which the proficient reader will easily distinguish. Nearly all have appeared in papers of this city, or in England, and are now revised and improved.

Mindful of the fate of Marsyas, and that of the dilated frog in the fable, he presents them to the reading public, who should kindly make due allowance for the spirit of youth and the Wheel; and he dedicates them to the gathering host of wheelmen on this continent, with the motto,—

**Nota non furor brevis est.**

OCTOBER, 1880.



## NOTE TO SECOND EDITION.

---

THIS edition contains nearly half as much again as the first, while some of the poorer things are dropped and a few passages in vile taste reformed. All are now distinctly scrumptious, and some are "corkers;" and there is a larger proportion entirely mine than before. As a collection of parodic and mock-heroic poems on a single topic, it is one of a very few; the only examples of any note being the "Rejected Addresses" and "Warreniana," an imitation of them. The Bi-lyrical and super-parodic method is here at last applied to all the available material from practically the whole range of poetry. The result, which would have been pronounced quite impossible by the best judges, is—for extremes meet—a most original product, and is the first sustained attempt to compel the ardors and music of prime poetry into the service of mirth. It is parody raised to a higher power, the union of fervid and comic. My own weakness made strong by the method, and certain gay angels assisting, I have aspired to set the almost miracular facts of cyclical predominance to song of like quality and exalt the movement into a sort of new cult, furnishing the hymns and a god complete.

I have worked this vein for all it is worth, and, regardless alike of the big-wigs and the little wags, offer the book as an artistic novelty in American humor and a

.step toward the racy and hardy poetry of the future. My underwriters insure readers' attention. If there is too much of the strut and voice of chanticleer in it—well, that is better than to limp and the timid and doleful notes which are so common.

The display of Latin (which I only hope is all right) comes not of pedantry, but as the nearest that could be done toward including that language in my plan.

The incorrect termination as in *cycler* was too frequent to rectify all in the plates; it does not occur in the later pieces.

N.B. In the angelic aid mentioned above, an elderly spirit *would* speak as in his own person at times, which may cause some doubt as to the actual youth of the writer, who does not care to be quite identified with him, no more than with the one who disports in the Waltese style—being himself truly Juvenis.

J. G. D.

JANUARY, 1885.

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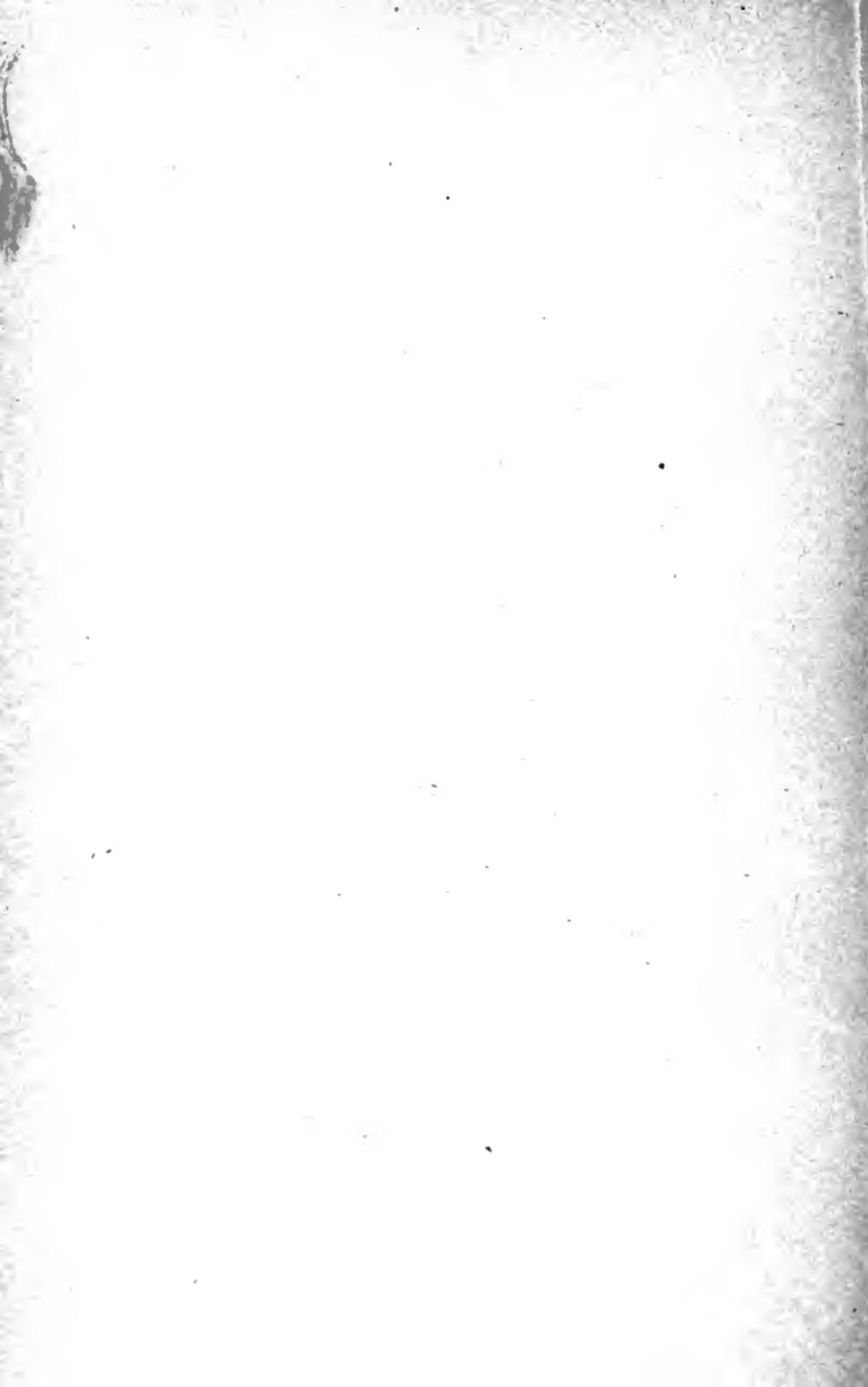
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## PRELUSIONS FROM THE POETS.

---

In seipso totus teres atque rotundus.

HORACE.

AND wondrous was his way, and wondrous was his coach.

COWLEY.

MEN met each other with erected look,  
The steps were higher than they took.

DRYDEN.

By ceaseless action all that is subsists.  
Constant rotation of the unwearied wheel,  
That Nature rides upon, maintains her health,  
Her beauty, her fertility. She knows  
No instant's pause, and lives but as she moves.  
Its own revolvency upholds the world.

COWPER.

I WAS a grovelling creature once,  
And basely cleaved to earth.

*Id.*

MIGHTY stage of mortal scenes,  
Drest with strong and gay machines.

WATTS.

I HAVE been  
On friendly terms with this machine.

WORDSWORTH.

WHAT wondrous new machines have late been spinning !

BYRON.

ON with the giddy circle, chasing Time.

*Id.*

IN gliding state she wins her easy way,  
To chase the glowing hours with flying feet.

*Id.*

SINCE the time of horse-consuls, now long out of date,  
No nags ever made such a stir in the state.

SOME fast-going authors of quite a new breed.

MOORE.

---

Now proceed,  
And sing the extension of the iron horse  
Made by John Taurus with Minerva's aid,  
And by the safe Cunarder carefully  
Conveyed unto the Bay State capital,  
Where charmèd starters of its boom did take  
The city taste. And I, if thou relate  
The story rightly, will to all declare  
That largely hath the bounteous god of ride  
Bestowed on thee the wheely shift of song.

[From a new *Odyssey*, B. viii.: Ulysses to the minstrel sage,  
Demodocus, of the "clear-toned harp."]

## LYRA BICYCLICA.

---

### THE HARP OF ROTA.

MORE of a strain than merely my  
Verse sounds the iron wheel along :  
Caught on the wings of wire to fly  
Above the pitch of single song,

Poe, Moore, and Byron tuneful climb,  
Emerson's native graces play,  
With chanting Whitman rudely prime  
And gentle Longman's moral lay.

William the Great me visited !  
Drawn to the glimpses of the wheel ;  
Cæsar nor Phœbus had, he said,  
Car fashioned so, "in cōplete steel."

Full many more were coaxed to aid ;  
And thus a middling pen, or worse,  
On lines of classic models made  
Diverted and diverting verse.

Some bicycles long since had birth  
Ere Coventry so many named  
And raised new ridings o'er the earth  
On those gay rollers greatly framed.

Vain was the brief boneshakers' ride,  
They had no go-it, and they died.  
In vain they seemed, inane they fled ;  
They made no poet, and are dead.



### **THE OVER-CYCLES.**

BY R. W. E. + D.

Lo ! New England answers Old.  
Walker, break this sloth urbane ;  
A Wheeling voice bids be uprolled  
Misty gray dreams which thee detain.

Mark how the climbing cycle-boys  
Beckon thee to all their joys,  
Horsed on a tipsy hoop of steel —  
Pede-pulsion on a wheel.  
Youth, by a “mount” make free thy way,  
Teach thy feet to feel the pedal,  
Ere yet arrives the wintry day  
Time with thy feet shall meddle.  
Accept the bounty of the high cycle,  
Taste the lordship of the bicycle.

Oh, what is the cause metaphysical  
Past ages have scarce met a bicycle —  
    That Menu and Plato,  
    And Plutarch and Cato,  
Should have seldom bestridden the bicycle ?  
The Sphinx don’t know nothing about ‘em ;  
Monadnoc inclineth to doubt ‘em ;  
Bold Cæsar went onward without ‘em ;  
    But how Eze-kiël  
    Often plieth “the wheel” !  
Have the prophets best ridden the bicycle ?

**INITIAL AND CELESTIAL CYCLING.****A PARODY-MOSAIC.****I.**

BICYCLIC knights I often spy,  
On horse uncarnate riding by ;  
Nimbly they scale his vaulty back,  
And spin along the travelled track.  
I see men go up and down,  
In the country and the town,  
Who on two wheels throned sedate  
Have not hazarded their state :  
With speedful limbs and agile toes  
Lusty Juventus circling goes,  
And Oldster's legs, aware of wane,  
Revivify and dance again.  
They are there for benefit ;  
They are there from drudging quit,  
And Wisdom journeying on the road  
Daily stops to view their mode.

On pedalian pinions fleeting,  
See them twirl the witching wheel,

Orb-libration's magic beating  
In the tense and vibrant steel.  
My soul the mystic carol sings  
Of those silent circling wings :  
It is ever the self-same tale,  
The first experience will not fail ;  
Only two in the garden walked,  
And with snake and seraph talked :  
Cycles only two are twirled,  
Yet how steadfastly they run,  
To the cadence of the whirling world  
That dances round the sun.  
Unheeded Danger near him strides,  
He laughs that on bicycle rides.

I bend my fancy to their leading,  
All too nimble for my treading ;  
My metric feet are no account  
To lift me to their wheely mount,  
And much revolving in my mind  
Turns up no chance of seat behind.  
Keen my sense, my heart was young,  
Right good-will my sinews strung,  
But no speed of mine avails  
To hunt upon their narrow trails ;

Fleetest couriers alive,  
Never yet could I arrive.  
Sometimes their strong speed they slacken,  
Though they are not overtaken ;  
On and away, their hasting feet  
Make the morning proud and sweet :  
Bright on the cheeks of gay and staid  
The rose of action burns ;  
Though breeches wear, and coats may fade,  
Immortal youth returns.

## II.

The soul regards with equal ken  
The dancing Pleiads and our frolic men.  
Bird, that from the nadir's floor  
To the zenith top can soar,  
Light rides the arch of night and noon,  
Bicycling on the sun and moon ;  
So orbit of the muse exceeds  
All such as now we erring own,  
Which seeming firm mechanic steeds,  
Are shadows flitting up and down.  
Spirit that lurks such form within  
Beckons to spirit in the skin ;

Self-kindled every semblance glows,  
And hints the future which it owes.  
Hear you then, bicycle fellows,  
Fits not to be over-zealous ;  
Steeds not to work on the clean jump,  
Nor wind nor heart perpetual pump.

Profounder and higher  
Man's spirit must drive ;  
To his aye-rolling orbit  
No goal will arrive ;  
The cycles that now draw him  
With fleetness untold,  
Once known,—for new cycles  
He spurneth the old.

Deep lore lieth under  
These circlets of time ;  
They melt in the light of  
Their meaning sublime.  
Love works at the axle,  
Beholdeth the way ;  
Forth speed the strong pulses  
To the borders of day.

Loftier rounds, a purer air,  
Ye shall climb on the heavenly stair ;  
Your reach shall yet be more profound,  
And a vista without bound ;  
The axis of the wheels you steer  
Be the axis of the sphere.  
Upward, higher far,  
Over sun and star,  
Thou must learn to mount,  
Into vision where all form  
In one only form dissolves ;  
In a region where the wheel  
On which all beings ride  
Whizzingly revolves ;  
Where the starred eternal worm  
Girds the world with bound and term.

---

UP ! and the dusty race  
That sat in horse-cars long —  
Be swift their feet as antelopes,  
And as steam-engine strong.

**THE TREAD-WHEEL SONG.****ADAPTED FROM HOLMES.**

THE stars are rolling in the sky,  
The earth rolls on below,  
And we can feel our twinkling wheel  
Revolving as we go.  
Then tread away, my gallant boys,  
And make the axle fly ;  
Why should not we go rotiform,  
Like planets in the sky ?

Wake up, come up, you walking men,  
And stir your heavy pegs ;  
Arouse, arise, my gawky friend,  
And ply your spider legs !  
What tho' you 're awkward at the first,  
'Most any one can learn —  
So hold upon the handles, man,  
And take another turn.

They 've built us up a noble steed  
To beat the vulgar rout ;

The motion is almost the same  
As just to walk about.  
You're seated on horseback afoot,  
To speed your distant ends ;  
Beside the pleasant rolling round  
Among one's honest friends.

Mark, fellows, 't is a Traveller,  
And useful work is done,  
As well as on its spinning wings  
To fly around for fun.  
You'll say, when our revolving colt  
You shall have better known,  
"Now, hang me, but I must have one  
Bicycle of my own!"



## THE YOUTH AND THE BICYCLE.

A CERTAIN young man; for his physical,  
Has been out and bought him a bicycle ;  
He is careless and rash,  
And it's treating him "hash,"  
This hasty young man on his bicycle.

Says he, you acephalous bicycle,  
 I shall fling you away for a tricycle,  
     Have a *tertium quid*,  
     Or it cannot be rid,  
 Says hasty young man off his bicycle.

\*



## A TOAST.

## HOLMES PLUS D.

BIBAMUS AD PRIMUM BICYCLICUM CLUB,  
 IN URBE EORUM CUI NOMEN EST "HUB";  
 ET FLOREANT, VALEANT, VOLITANT TAM,  
 NON PEIRCIUS IPSE ENUMERET QUAM.

*Englished, freely.*

HERE's luck to the pioneer Bicycle Club,  
 That starts in the place entitled the Hub;  
 May their growth, example, and circling be such,  
 Not Peirce's own chalk can reckon how much.

\* Initials dropt now, for, used in such a way, Dr. Holmes was angry that readers would think, he says, "these rather slipshod rhymes were really mine." But how pleased he is at any taffy for his vanity — "Oliver asking for more."

## THE WHEELLESS.

CLOSELY AFTER HOLMES.

We count the working heads that rest  
Where the fleet whirling riders beckon,  
But, on our silent carrier's crest,  
The slow-goers who will stop to reckon ?  
A few can twirl the magic wire,  
And noiseless wheel is proud to win them ;  
Alas, for those who walk and tire,  
And bide with all their riding in them !

Nay, care not for the live alone,  
Much song has told their art's glad story ;  
Wail for the wheelless, who have none —  
No lyric chants pedestrian glory !  
And while Arcadian breezes sweep  
O'er Bicycle's mirific flyer,  
Call where the clattering horse-cars creep,  
To bring your brothers *one yard higher* :

“ O men that walk, and take car line —  
Have tightening boot or tortoise horses,

And Gout going home to cordial wine,  
Slow-dropped from crowding's crushing process ;  
Attend the song and echoing chord, —  
With over-ridden poets dealing,  
For you the parodies are poured,  
As mad as mirth, as *two* as wheeling !”

---

## A SONNET.

BY WOLIVER ENDELL.

*Incepit Bostonia et cantavit.*

THOUGH home is dear, yet oft we needs must sigh,  
Longing for what our lifted soles have found  
To shoot beyond the city's narrow bound,  
Where slippery stones and bricky sideways lie ;  
That fair r-ideal form as from the sky,  
By youth elected and by poets crowned  
Whose legs sweep circling in a fervid round  
Where the urged trotter heeds the loud *hi, hi!*  
Frequent to thee our truest hearts return,  
Great Mover, *alma rotæ*, noiseless kind,  
Whose little saddle a larger home we find ;  
And still of thee thy wondering pupils learn,  
While with the flying wires thine ardors burn  
Where all our wheeliest melodies are designed.

## MY BICYCLE.

BY JAGY TORLTON.

*He cadgily ranted and sang. — Old Song.*

WHAT spins around “like all git out,”  
And swiftly carries me about,—  
So light, so still, so bright and stout?

My Bicycle.

Regard me now where I sit high on  
Nag forty pound of mostly iron ;  
And don’t you wish that you might try on  
My Bicycle?

*Monstrum informe, ingens ! some*  
Cry, seeing first this courser come.  
Our “fine knee-action” strikes them dumb,  
My Bicycle !

Calling him monster from the east,  
And both a lean and fatuous beast,  
You comprehend not in the least  
My Bicycle.

Revolve it in your mind, and my way  
Will show to be a more than *guy* way—  
High way of riding on the highway—

My Bicycle.

Those now who stand and stare and say,  
O, "*parce nobis, s'il vous plaît,*"  
Will beg to tread, another day,

My Bicycle.

What tho' Hans Breitmann did, almost,  
And Schnitzerlein gave up the ghost?  
'T was all because they could n't boast

My Bicycle.

And saying mine, I do not mean  
There are not many others seen  
Who ride like me on my machine,

My Bicycle.

I 'm not stuck up, tho' seated high ;  
To ride, at once, and run and fly—  
My pride is so to travel by

My Bicycle.

Who will may head with learning stow,  
I work the light, ped-antic toe—  
'T is *cyclopedic* lore to know

My Bicycle.

And when the saddled arc I span,  
What care I for the fall of man ?  
Let him remount ! I always can

My Bicycle.

All the mutations I discern  
Of men and States not me concern,  
While I avoid to overturn

My Bicycle.

See Russia rotten Turkey eat—  
And John Bull in a stewing heat ;  
We have a better kind of meet,

My Bicycle.

Then hurry spokes and spokesman too,  
We only have an hour or so,  
And almost twenty miles to go,

My Bicycle.

*TRANSLATIONS VERY MUCH TRANSLATED FROM LONGFELLOW.*

---

THE CELESTIAL CYCLER.

FROM DANTE.

SCENE, *Coast near Boston.*

AND now, behold! as at the approach of morning \*  
Through the gross vapors, Sol grows fiery round,  
Down in the east upon the ocean floor,

Appeared to me,— I may alway behold it! —  
A wheel along the sea, so swiftly coming,  
Its motion by no flight of wing is equalled.

And when therefrom I had withdrawn a little  
Mine eyes, that I might question Mr. W-st-n,  
Again I saw it brighter grown and larger.

---

\* I saw from the beach, when the morning was shining,  
A *wheel* o'er the waters move gloriously on. — MOORE.

Then on each side of it appeared to me  
I knew not what of *legs*, and underneath,  
Little, so little ! there came forth another.

My mentor yet had uttered not a word,  
While the first brightness into wheels unfolded ;  
But, when he clearly recognized the chariot,

He cried aloud : “Learn, quick, to bow the knee  
And hold the handles ! Now, get up thy spunk !  
Henceforward shalt thou see such bicyclers !

“See, how he scorns all common arguments,  
So that no horse he wants, nor other speed  
Than his own wheels, between all distant points.

“See, how he holds them, pointed straight to Boston !  
Fanning the air with the bicyclic pinions,  
That do not moult themselves like mortal hair.”

Then, as still nearer and more near us came  
The Bird of Britain, more glorious he appeared  
On that — the eye could not endure his presence ;

But down he cast him, and he came to ground  
By a small footstep, gliding swift and light,  
So that the cycles wobbled not thereby.

Upon the strand stood Bisakel the Angel !  
Beatitude seemed written in his face !  
And more than wine-red spirits shone within.

“ *In exitu* the Yankees out of Walking ! ”  
Thus sang we three together in one voice,  
Like whatso in that Psalm of old is written.

Then made he sign of wheely rood upon us ;  
Whereat we took the horse-car for the town,  
And he sped onward swiftly as he came.



## SONG OF THE SILENT WHEEL.

UPON the Silent Wheel !  
Ha ! who shall lift us thither ?  
Life in its middle term begins to wither,  
And shaky shanks are thinner to the feel.

Who leads us with a gentle zeal  
Thither—and whither?  
Upon the silent wheel?

Upon the silent wheel,  
Out over boundless regions  
Of equitation! Send the mounting legions  
Of youthful souls, the future's pledge of weal.  
Who miles on axles firm can reel,  
Shall be Health's carrier pigeons,  
Upon the silent wheel!

On WHEEL and wheel,  
To all the book-besotted,  
The eldest heralds of the gait allotted  
Beckon, and with reverted looks appeal,  
To lead us with a gentle zeal  
Into the seat of the great imported,  
Upon the silent wheel!

---

THE EARTH HATH ITS GEMS.

THE earth hath its gems,  
The heaven hath its stars;  
But my heart, my heart,  
My heart hath its wheel.

Great are the earth and the heaven ;

Yet greater is my heart,

And fairer than gems and stars

Flashes and beams my wheel.

Thou little youth, and man, then,

Come unto my great heart ;

My heart, and the earth, and the heaven,

Are fleeting away with wheels.

---

### THE WHEEL.

“WHITHER, on whirling wheel ?

Whither, with so much haste,

As if a thief thou wert ?”

“I have the Wheel of life ;

Soiled with my city’s dust,

From the struggle and the strife

Of the narrow street I fly

To the Road’s felicity,

To clear from me the frown

Of the moody toil of town.”

(*End of Translations.*)

## PEGASUS IN (ABOUT 40) POUND.

*Dies rotæ, dics illa.*

ONCE into a quiet city,  
Without taste and without feed,  
In the golden prime of Autumn,  
Came the Briton's iron steed.

Thereupon, to that age common,  
From the school-boys was abuse ;  
But the wise men, in their wisdom,  
Put him straightway into use.

Then two morning city papers  
Both allowed his praises well —  
Dealers down the street proclaiming  
There were bicycles to sell.

And the curious city people,  
Rich and poor, and old and young,  
Came in haste to see this wondrous  
Wheely steed, with wire strung.

Patiently and still, expectant,  
Waited he of flighty limb,  
For disporting far his pinions  
In the triumph meant for him.

Then with circuits wide extended,  
Breaking up their toil and care,  
Lo, the strange steed late imported,  
Was familiar everywhere.

And they found within th' Eleventh Ward,  
Where the cycling club had meets,  
Pure and bright example flowing  
From the wheeling in the streets.

From that hour, the horse unfailing  
Gladdens the whole region round,  
Strengthening all who sit his saddle,  
While he bears them without sound.

**THE LADDER OF ST. HYGEIA.**

MR. SONGFELLOW ASSISTED TO NEW ALTITUDES.

WELL, Saint Hygeia, have they said  
That, of devices we can frame,  
Your bicycle is best to tread  
For following up a healthy aim.

All common folk to elevate,  
Who wish to quicken and amend —  
Its flight of steps, that rolling gait,  
Are rounds by which they may ascend.

The low-back ones, the base design,  
That make had many virtues less ;  
Its revels here in 'Sixty-nine  
Were all occasions of excess.

The longing for big noble things,  
The time for triumph, now ensu'th,  
With hardening of the hand that brings  
Persistence in the ways of youth.

Small draughts of ale—small beers, we need,  
That have their roots in ; cause no reel,  
And never wobble nor impede  
The action of the sober wheel.

Treadles must now be trampled down  
Beneath our feet, that we may gain  
In the bright roads of every town  
The right of evident domain !

Having no wings, we cannot soar ;  
But we have feet and hands to climb  
By due degrees, by more and more,  
The saddled summits of our time.

The mighty bicycles of John  
Bull wedge-like cleave the suburb airs ;  
When nearer seen, to gad upon,  
They are like antic flights of stairs

O'er distant green hills that uprear  
Their rounded backs toward the skies,  
Crossing by roadways that appear  
As we to higher levels rise.

The seats bicyclers reached and kept,  
Were not secured by sudden flight ;  
But they, while their companions crept,  
Were toiling — tumbling left and right.

Walking is what was long a bore  
With persons bent on exercise ;  
We now discern, unseen before,  
The steps to higher destinies.

Nor deem the boneshaker of the past  
Is wholly wasted, wholly vain,  
As rising on the arch at last,  
To cycling nobler we attain.



## THE STILLY WHEEL.

BY MR. LONGFELLOE.

*Auspice Hygeiâ, et sine labe perfectus.*

NOWHERE such a previous steed,  
Not in fancy — even, indeed,  
'Zekiel saw no wheels with brake  
Linked together in their make.

Man on little leather shelf—  
Ever balancing itself,  
Goes the wheel so still and fast  
That it hardly seems to haste.

Never charioteer of old,  
On his oaken axle rolled,  
Such a course erect pursued  
Through the gazing multitude.

Never school-boy in his zest  
For all spinning things the best,  
Top, or hoop, or sling, came out  
Wandering whirling thus about.

As the mirror of its ride,  
People thickly on each side  
Hang converted, and between  
Floating fly the lads serene.

Hawk or eagle on the wing  
Seems the only travelling  
Like to one who laughs and flies  
On those wheels' contrasted size.

Silent wheel ! that Indian mood  
Fame has not misunderstood ;  
For thou glidest not alone,  
Ill content to be unknown.

And thy transits softly teach  
Wisdom more than human speech,  
Speeding without toil or noise  
In unshaken equipoise.

Though it turneth no busy mill,  
Yet, so stirring and so still,  
Gives some moving words to say  
To the traveller on his way :

“ Traveller, hurrying from the heat  
Of the city, play thy feet !  
Ride a wheel, nor longer waste  
Life with inconsiderate taste.

“ Go not with the crowd that crawls  
Where the rattling horse-car hauls,  
Sit the quiet nag of steel,  
Link together wheel and weal.”

## BICYCLICALISTHENICS.

BY LONGFELLOW ET AL.

O GRACEFUL one that fleetest on, thy pace  
Is an aerial promenade, and thy form  
Goes poised as if it floated on the air,  
With the soft ambulating gait of one  
Who timeth all his motions to a measure !  
Has some Prometheus daringly again  
Been stealing fire from Helios' chariot-wheels  
To light bicycles with, and make them spin ?  
Who thinks of bicycling hath already taken  
One step upon the way to eminence :  
Such altitudes delight me — *I will* launch  
On the sustaining wire, nor fear to fall  
Like Icarus, nor serve myself like him  
Who drove awry Hyperion's fiery steeds.

O fortunate, O happy day,  
When a new cycle bears its load  
Among the myriad wheels of earth ;  
Like a young moon just spun to birth,  
It rolls on its harmonious way  
Into the boundless realms of road !

TO THE ROVER RHHONE.

BY MR. LONGMELLOW.

THOU rotal Rover, borne thro' sun and shower,  
In steamers pulsing with volcanic glow,—  
Plated in spotless nickel as the snow,  
And mocked by billows!—at the anointing hour,  
Forth, like an ice-clad Norseman from a bower,  
With dash and blink of farness didst thou go  
To meet the dazzled tyros that below  
Push to achieve thee and essay thy power.  
And now thou provest in *biumphal* march  
A king among the wheelers! On thy way  
Hundreds of towns await and welcome thee;  
Elders uplift them on the stately arch,  
Fine bards delight in thee with lyrics gay,  
And fleet thy progress on from sea to sea!

---

It is a little wheel  
All of rubber and steel,  
With a big one, rather fickle, on afor'ard;  
And when it is good,  
It is very very good,  
But when it is bad, it is horrid!

## YANKEE-LAND.

*Novus ordo cyclorum.*

THE destined wheel is on thy shore,  
Yankeeland !

Its perch is at thy ample door,  
Yankeeland !

Ascend the gay exotic goer  
That flashed the streets of Boston o'er,  
And beat the boneshaker of yore,  
Yankeeland, my Yankeeland !

Hark to the wondering son's appeal,  
Yankeeland !

"My mother dear, I want a wheel,"  
Yankeeland !

For life and health, for "go" and weal,  
Thy beardless cavalry reveal,  
And speed their beauteous limbs with steel !  
Yankeeland, my Yankeeland !

They must not tumble in the dust,  
Yankeeland !

Their beaming steel should never rust,  
Yankeeland !

That slender firmness you may trust  
Like slender blades in warlike thrust  
Held by those numbered with the just,  
Yankeeland, my Yankeeland !

Come, for the wheel is bright and strong,  
Yankeeland !

Come, for thy carriance does thee wrong,  
Yankeeland !

Come for thy young bard in the throng,  
Who stalks with levity along,  
And gives a new key to much song,  
Yankeeland, my Yankeeland !

This iron forms no tyrant's chain,  
Yankeeland !

Britannia *now* sends not in vain,  
Yankeeland !

She greets her kindred o'er the main —  
*Slick transit!* be the wild refrain  
We shout in greeting back again,  
Yankeeland, my Yankeeland !

*ROTA ET ROTULA.*

BY SENIOR.

WHEN life is lazy in my veins,  
And joy is gone away,—  
Although my legs' November lacks  
The spring'ness of their May,  
I climb and scamper off on that  
Will warm my heart to move ;  
'Tis greater wheel and lesser wheel,  
On the leather seat above.

The guiding wand of silver hue,  
The spinal hollow bright,  
With nether limbs that play or rest  
Like creatures of delight ;  
Oh, these combine a stir and shine  
To warm old hearts to move  
By greater wheel and lesser wheel,  
On the russet seat above.

The great white wheel, I tread it as  
Switzer his mount of snow,  
And much the good me there befel  
That many more can know :

For a quiet sort of kindling stuff  
    To warm your heart to move,  
Take greater wheel and lesser wheel,  
    On the leather seat above.

---

### LAY OF THE PEDESTRIAN.

*Stet quicunque volet, potens*

*Rotæ culmine lubrico.* — SENECA.

TURN, Cyclist, turn thy wheel and lower the proud ;  
Turn thy still wheel past steeds and coaches loud ;  
    Thy wheel and thee we rather like than hate.

Turn, Cyclist, turn thy wheel long miles from town ;  
With that high wheel we go not up — or down ;  
    Our speed is little, but our prudence great.

Smile we to see you up in many lands ;  
Down, and we smile, sure of our feet and hands ;  
    That wheel we ride not, nor deride, but wait.

Turn, turn thy wheel above the walking crowd ;  
Thy wheel and thou are greater than the proud ;  
    Thy wheel and thee we rather like than hate.

## THE BICYCLE.

A. T. + D.

SURE never yet was any heel

Could flit so lightly by.

Keep off, or else my bicycle

Will hit you coming nigh.

How lightly whirls the bicycle !

How fiery-like you fly !

Go, get you one ; this ticklish wheel

Be taught before you try.

Thou darest — give me now to reel

The rapid miles, or die.

There, take it, take my bicycle

And break your neck thereby.

---

WE love that wheel, though hard and cold,

That nickeled shape of noble mold :

Leads a new cult, saith he who sings

To wiry harp of many tones

That men so rise o'er dust and stones

From their old selves to higher things.

**HASTE NOT, PAUSE NOT.**

NEWLY TRANSLATED FROM OLD GOEASY (OFTEN SPELT  
GOETHE).\*

WITHOUT pause, without haste !  
Print the motto in thy breast ;  
Bear it with you as a spell  
When you ride the bicycle.  
Cobblestones may bring you down—  
Bear right onward out of town.

Haste not ! Let no reckless deed  
Mar for aye the slender steed.  
Balance well, and keep the right,  
Onward then with all delight.  
Haste not ! Years may ne'er atone  
For one “ nasty cropper ” done.

Pause not ! Teams are sweeping by ;  
Tumble there not, lest you die.  
Nothing mighty and sublime  
Thus to fall before your time.  
Glorious 't is to live to ride,  
While these forms of ours abide.

---

\* Schiller? — trust not the “ Rev ” editor of hymns.

Haste not, pause not! Calmly sit;  
Meekly bear a front of grit.  
Heed not boys that cry thee "Whoa,  
Emma"—let them see thee go.  
Duly wag thy pivot guide,  
Take the right, whate'er betide.  
Haste not, pause not! Trials past,  
Health shall crown thy work at last.

---

### THE STEED OF FIRE.

FROM POE'S "ELDORADO"—FABLED GOLDEN MADE  
TRUE STEEL.

SOBERLY dight,  
A modern knight  
Upon a hack of hire  
Had journeyed long  
Singing a song  
In search of a steed of fire.

But he grew old,  
This knight, tho' bold,

With o'er his heart a dire  
Dump as he found  
Nothing around  
That looked like a steed of fire.

And as his strength  
Waned, he at length  
Met a bicycling flyer :  
“ Flyer,” said he,  
“ What ! can it be —  
Can this be the steed of fire ? ”

“ Upon this mount  
We surely count,  
’T is all you can desire ;  
Ride, boldly ride,”  
Cycler replied,  
“ If you seek for a steed of fire ! ”

He dried his tears, —  
And shed his years,  
All on the windy wire ;  
And sweeps along  
Singing much song  
In praise of the steed of fire.

## BISAKEL.

## “ISRAFEL,” BY POE, RECAST FOR A NEW ROLL.

The angel Bisakel, whose wings are wheels, has the fleetest pace of all God's creatures. — *Koran*.

IN heaven a spirit doth dwell  
Whose great wing is a wheel.  
None fly so wildly well  
As the angel Bisakel,  
And the giddy stars, so legends say,  
Slowing their course, attend the play  
Of his wondrous heel.

Maturing her age,  
In her highest noon,  
The enamelled moon  
Reddens with rage,  
And to witness, with misgivin',  
(With the nautic Pleiads even,  
More than seven,)  
Pauses in heaven.

And they say (the starry choir  
And the other gossiping things)

That Bisakeli's fire  
Is owing to that tire  
O'er which he sits and slings  
The trembling living wire  
Of those unusual wings.

But surely that angel trod  
Treadles amazing flighty ;  
And, for a gay young god,  
There bicycling houris are  
His rivals — Aphrodite  
Transports faster than a star !

The zealousy he took  
With such company to deal —  
His leg and style, his pure caoutchouc,  
With the fervor of his wheel —  
Well may the stars go reel !

We say thou art not wrong,  
Bisakeli, who despisest  
Feathers and psalming song ;  
Bloom thou the laurels among,  
Best angel and the wisest, —  
*Merrily live, and long !*

GRAND CHORUS.

53

— Ah, heaven is his'n, indeed ;  
This world is sweets *and* sours ;  
Our powers are puny powers,  
And the slowest of his perfect speed  
Is the swiftest of ours.

If I could dwell  
Where Bisakel  
Hath dwelt, and he where I,  
He might not spin so wildly well  
Our mortal wheelery,  
While a better song than now might swell  
From my lyre within the sky —  
But — how is this “for *high*” ?



GRAND CHORUS.

J. D. + D.

AT last great Bisakeli came,  
Inventor of the rotal frame ;  
The fleet enthusiast, from his starry store,  
Enlarged the former rattling rounds,  
And added height to hushèd sounds,

With Britain's mother-wit, and arts unknown before.

His new machine deserves the prize,  
To that award the crown ;  
It raises mortals toward the skies,  
And draws an angel down.

---

### *OWED TO THE BICYCLE.*

(AND PAID IN ALTERED NOTES FROM TOM MOORE.)

IT came o'er the sea,  
My Cycle to me,  
Came thro' sunshine, storm, and snows ;  
Rubber and steel,  
This, the true wheel,  
Turns the same where'er it goes.  
Tho' fate may frown, so I ride and fall not,  
'T is life on the wing, a life that can pall not.  
Thou cam'st o'er the sea,  
Bicycle, to me,  
Came whence chilly our east wind blows ;  
Seas may congeal,  
But the true wheel  
Turns the same where'er it goes.

Was not the sea  
Made to bring thee ?  
Land for roads and rides alone ?  
Once walking slaves,  
Cycle us saves,—  
Wheel and liberty 's all our own.  
No fare to pay, no limits to bound us,  
The town behind, and the country around us—  
Thou cam'st o'er the sea,  
Bicycle, to me,  
Came thro' sunshine, storm, and snows ;  
Seas may congeal,  
But thy true wheel  
Turns the same, where'er it goes !

---

*THOSE BICYCLES.**IN MIDSUMMER.*

THOSE bicycles, those bicycles !  
How merry a tale their image tells,  
Of youth and health, and that fleet time  
When last I heard their whistle's chime.

Those boyous hours are passed away ;  
And many a heart that then was gay,  
Out of or in town darkly dwells,  
And rides not now those bicycles.

Again 't will be — they are not gone ;  
That gleeful wheel will still roll on,  
While I help bards to *wire* their shells  
And sing your praise, fleet bicycles.

---

## ANACREON: ODE XXXIX.

MO(O)RE TRANSLATED THAN EVER.

How I love the restive boy,  
Tripping on the wheel of joy !  
How I love the mellow sage,  
Rolling up the hill of age !

And whene'er the man of years  
On the wheel of boy appears,  
Snows may o'er his head be hung,  
But his heart and heels are young.

**ROTAL POESY.**

BY T. W. O.

WHO comes so rollicking,  
Riding along,  
While the blue poetess  
Frets at his song?  
Song, she says, vying  
With the high crying  
Wild geese in flying  
Samely prolong.

Not so the ragged boy  
By the wayside,  
Watching that bicycle  
Down the road glide,  
Wire bird winging,  
Thro' the dust bringing  
That rhymer singing  
To the hushed ride.

“Stay,” said the little boy,  
“Bicycle, stay;  
Linger, sweet ballader,  
Linger, I say.”

Swiftly proceeding  
Past both, unheeding,  
Song and wheel speeding  
Glided away.

So to all youthful eyes  
Bicycles shone ;  
Every bard able was  
Forced to get on,  
Editors declining  
Some things combining  
Two in one shining.  
Who 's the next one ?

*FROM THE GREEK.*

BY T. M. + D.

IF you ride upon horses or asses,  
You 'll never write anything nice ;  
The wheel 's the true steed of Parnassus,  
Which carries a bard to the skies.

**THE DANDY BICYCLER.**

*Cyclus Scintillans.*

RICH and fair were the wheels he sat,  
And he had on his head a strange club hat ;  
But his gay leggings were far beyond  
His sparkling spokes or level wand.

“Laddy ! dost thou not fear to stray  
Alone, bicycling through this by-way ?  
Are Erin’s sons so peaceable grown  
As not to be tempted to throwing the stone ?”

“Old man, I feel not the least alarm,  
No son of Erin will offer me harm ;  
For though they love mischief and rows galore,  
Old man, they love manly exertion more.”

On he went there, more than a mile,  
In safety, and bright as their own green isle ;  
And wholly correct is he who relied  
Upon Cycle’s glamour — and Erin beside.

**MAGNALIA CYCLI.**

À LA MOORE.

MOUNT bicycle fair !  
Every spoke you twinkle  
From the face of Care  
Charms away a wrinkle.  
Health's rekindled flame  
None so surely feels  
As he thro' whose frame  
It shoots from saddled wheels.

Franklin did, they say,  
Tame the lightning's pinions,  
And drew down one day  
Fire from cloud dominions ;  
So new poets sit,  
On bicycles bright'ning,  
From the heaven of wit  
Borrowing its lightning.

Topping youth are up  
Lyric heights aspirin',  
And no vinous cup  
Mix their finer fire in ;

While they gods enact  
Clad in light apparel,  
Jove on his eagle backed,  
Bacchus on his barrel !



## MY MOBILE NUMBERS.

Not quite every day am I  
Fit for moving poesy ;  
But when on the rollable  
Firm-elastic bicycle,  
O'er the wires I rewrite  
As the godhead may incite —  
Like the wires, then I sing,  
Bisakel inspiriting.  
Thus engaged our lines are whirled  
With bicycle's thro' the world. . . .  
Who tunes next the wheely lyre ?  
*Herrick* slacks and doth retire ;  
So my fancy cools, till when  
Some right spirit come agen.

---

LET those ride now who seldom rode before,  
And those who often rode, now ride the more.

## LITTLE MISS LOQUITUR.

BY T. W. O.

WHEN AS on wheels my Johnny goes,  
Then, then methinks, how fleetly shows  
That lively action of his hose.

And when I cast mine eyes and see  
What brave vibration wires be,  
Oh, how that glittering taketh me !

---

*"MUSIC" ON THE WIRE.*

WM. STRODE, ABOUT 1630, — NOW RIDES.

WHEN seniors tread the cranky wheel,  
From creeping passing to that art,  
And when at every turn we feel  
Our pulses stir and bear a part ;  
When wires can make  
The heartstrings wake ;  
Philosophy  
Cannot deny  
The wheel is made of jollity.

When with excursive boys we train,  
Where'er the wheel affecteth most ;  
And sometimes singing, will maintain  
Bicyclers mid the heavenly host, —  
In lays we think  
Make poets blink ;  
Philosophy  
Cannot deny  
The wheel consists of jollity.

Thus did the flighty bicycle  
My senses rock with motion sweet ;  
Like wool \* on snow its paces fell,  
Soft like a spirit's, and as fleet.  
Grief who needs feel  
That hath a wheel ?  
Up let him hie,  
And clambering fly,  
And change his dole for jollity.

---

— · —

UNLESS hereby above himself he can  
Erect himself, how poor a thing is man !

---

\* *Laneos pedes.*

## ROTA ANGLICA.

O WHEEL of wire, misjudged by walking man,—  
The power of John Bull's pace,  
What rides are here since thou and Jonathan  
First greeted face to face !  
He doomed to creep, thou on him didst impress  
The pattern of a ruddy wheeliness.

Yes, it was well ; for so, mid cares that rule  
Us men to business tied,  
The charm uplifts us from the chair and stool  
To seats before untried.  
We wheel our course like pigeons or like hawks ;  
Who rides with us he flies, he is but dust who walks.



## THE WHEEL-SHOP.

YOUNG Sixty went there, and soon met with a Friend ;  
Folks say in his tights he 's now going on end !  
Then why should not I the same method pursue,  
And quicken my paces as other boys do ?

Forty.

**CARMEN BICYCLICUM.**

BY T. W. O.

BICYCLING bloods go forth to war  
Hygeia's crown to gain ;  
Her rosy banner streams afar,—  
Who follows in their train ?

Who best can sit his pig-skin perch,  
Triumphant over bane,  
Who patient bears his jolt or lurch,  
He follows in their train.

That lawyer first, whose eagle eye  
Could look beyond the law,  
Rode forty miles upon the fly,  
Wrote what he did and saw ;

And one who raids it into Song,  
'Midst some immortal strain,  
Rewriting poets where they 're wrong ;  
Who follows in their train ?

A glorious band, the chosen club,  
On whom the spirit came,  
Twelve valiant saints, their hope the Hub  
Would mock not at the same ;

They met the Briton's burnished steel,  
The Lion's narrow wain ;  
They bowed their necks to mount the wheel, —  
Who follows in their train ?

This mobile band of men and boys,  
With many converts made,  
Around the State unthrown rejoice,  
In garments light arrayed.

They climbed the steep ascent to saddle  
Thro' trifling toil and pain ;  
May all yet have the grace to paddle  
And follow in their train !



BENEATH the roll of men on-tirely great  
The Wheel is mightier than the Horse.

**FLEET WHEEL.**

“SWEET HOME” MADE MORE MOVING.

WITH coaches and palace-cars though we may deal,  
Be it even to tumble, there’s no seat like wheel !  
A charm from the skies ever follows us there,  
Which, riding enclosed, is not met anywhere.

Wheel, wheel, fleet wheel !

There ’s no seat like wheel !

Apart from the wheel, metals dazzle in vain !  
O give me my high bright bicycle again !  
The boys mounting gaily that came at the call ;  
O give me fleet pace of leg, dearer than all !

Wheel, wheel, fleet wheel !

There ’s no seat like wheel !

How fleet ’tis to flit o’er a three-minute mile,  
And all cares and the bother of work to beguile !  
Let others go fight, or gold treasures reveal,  
But give me to shoot for the pleasures of wheel !

Wheel, wheel, fleet wheel !

But give me the speeding  
And pleasures of wheel.

To that I will turn when allured by the fair,  
The heart's merest follies can catch me not there ;  
And more with bicycle than rum will I reel —  
Be it even to tumble, there's nothing like wheel.

Wheel, wheel, fleet wheel !  
There 's nothing like wheel.

---

#### SECOND YOUTH.

My native youth, when I did love  
And thought it very sweet,  
Was highly gay in many a way,  
Though but lowly moved my feet.

Now, when lame age with stealing pace  
Caught at me with his crutch,  
I vaulted over the saddle of wheel —  
I will have nothing of such !

---

#### WHAT TO DO.

If sad that Fortune's wheel can't use thee well,  
And seeking for some surer " dear Gazelle,"  
Cheer up, step up, and try the bicycle.

HIS FIRST RIDE.

By Sir Frightful Plagiary  
Taken from Miss Alice Carey.

EARTH with its slow and tiresome ills  
Recedes some feet away ;  
Lift up y'r heads, ye neighboring hills,  
I 'm coming out your way !

My soul is full of pilfered song,  
*Highwayman's* is my right ;  
Bicycles that I feared too long,  
Are things of life — and light.

My pulses fast and fearless beat,  
My limbs seek wider bounds,  
I feel grow firm beneath my feet  
The rubber pedal rounds.

A Fifty-inch the courage gives  
High as the brave to go ;  
Same force in my two-wheeler lives,  
Our circulations show.

This is the safe and narrow way—  
The wires sing in the wind—  
To men on horse of flesh I say,  
I've no such carnal mind.

In palace-cars I would not be,  
Where rides the railroad king ;  
O steam, where is thy victory ?  
O bird, where is thy wing ?

N. B.—He came a nasty cropper and back by rail !



#### **"MORTALITY" ENLIVENED.**

Made from William Knox's song,  
Twice as true, and half as long.

WHY should not the spirit of mortal be proud ?  
Like a fast fleeting meteor, a fast flying cloud,  
The sweep of the foam on the crest of a wave,  
He passes from town on his bicycle brave !

The lad on whose cheek, on whose brow, in whose  
eye,  
Shine beauty and pleasure—he triumphs to fly ;

And the memory of those boneshakers once praised  
Is away from the minds of the lively erased.

So the two-wheeler goes, like the flourishing weed,  
That withers away to let flowers succeed ;  
So the two-wheeler comes — even those we behold,  
To reseat every tail on the bicycle bold.

We are not the same sort that our fathers have been,  
Nor see the same sights that our fathers have seen ;  
We drink the same stream, and we feel the same sun,  
But run *not* the same *course* that our fathers have run.

The thoughts we are thinking, could our fathers think ?  
From "Spirits" we 're not shrinking from, how they  
did shrink !

To the wheel we are clinging to, they too would cling,  
For it speeds on the road like a bird on the wing.

They died — without Ride ! had they things we have  
now,  
Who race on the turf that lies over their brow,  
They 'd made in their dwellings a transient abode,  
To have bicycle-meets on their pilgrimage road.

'Tis the wink of an eye, 't is the wag of a tail,  
 To the blossom of health from the drudgery pale,—  
 From the gilded saloon of the beer and the crowd—  
 Why should not the mortal of spirit be proud ?

---

## SONG TO BISAKEL.

(*Deus ex Machinâ. The Prince of Pace.*)

To Bisakel we sing to-day,  
 Whose steely beams with fancy play,  
 And make his wheels so brightly shine  
 Aurora's face is less divine.  
 Sing him, and to the sliding throne  
 Of sparkles which he goes upon.

Io Pæans let us sing,  
 No physic ! Bisakel is king.

Sound all his praises with right fire,  
 Captive bards support the lyre ;  
 With laurelled helmet for his head,  
 Disciples dance about his tread ;

When on his rushing wire he plays,  
Scatter roses round, and bays.

Io Pæans let us sing  
To the bright pedalian king.

---

## WHERE'S MY JOHN?

BY T. W. O.

“ Ho, Cybler from the road !  
Where 's my boy — my boy ? ”  
“ What 's the boy 's name, good wife,  
And what is the make he strode ? ”

“ My boy John —  
He that went to ride —  
What ! I 'm not on the ' make,' Cybler ;  
My boy, my boy 's my pride.

“ You come back to town,  
And not seen my John ?  
I might as well have asked some hodman  
Down there in the town.  
There 's not your likes in all the county,  
But he knows my John.

“Where's my boy — my boy?  
Speak louder, and let me know,  
Or I swear you are no cycler,  
Tight breeches or no,  
Gay leggings or no, Cycler,  
Whistle and such or no!  
Sure his'n is called a Jolly Briton.”

“He rode too fast, too fast.”  
“And why should I be fast, Cycler?  
That have my own boy John!  
If I was stout as I am proud  
I'd bang you over the crown!  
Where's my boy, my John, Cycler?”  
“That big wheel went down.”

“Where's my boy — my boy?  
What care I for the wheel, Cycler?  
I was never a-top it.  
Be it running or on the ground,  
Whether or no, though, I'll be bound,  
My Johnny would n't swap it.  
I say, where's my John?”  
“Every man on wheels goes down,  
When a man can't stop it.”

“Where’s my boy—my boy?  
 What care I for the *men*, Cycler?  
 That am John’s mother!  
 Where’s my boy—my boy?  
 Tell me of him, and no whopper.”  
 “*He came a NASTY CROPPER!*”

NOTE.—The original of the above seemed well worth capturing, in spite of the severe verdict (in another connection) of a brother rhymers in a New York paper:—

“The fellah th-that steals from Sydney Dobell  
 Is a wegral lunatic.”

A charge of cruelly kidnapping an only child might hold. Methinks I hear a wailing voice,—

Ho, rider of the B !  
 Where’s my poem—my poem?



### CAREFUL SENIOR'S SONG.

*Dum vivimus volvamus.*

ENGLAND—how wide her glory shines,  
 How high her seats arise !  
 Known thro’ the earth by thousand signs,  
 By two signs in the skies.

Bicyclus thence, that art the best,  
The true and living wheel,  
Upborne upon that buoyant crest,  
No feebleness I feel.

Quickened thereon, and made alive,  
I equitate afoot ;  
My life I from thy top derive,  
My vigor from the shoot.

Grafted on thee I reach the sky —  
At least, I think I will,  
For seated more than four feet high,  
My soul mounts higher still.

Careful throughout Ward Elev'n I drove,  
From all destruction free ;  
My hands were well engaged above,  
My legs were still with thee.

Too long, alas, my devious feet  
The sidewalk ways have trode ;  
Henceforth I'll travel in the street,  
O wheel, or on the road.

My walking beams were feeble sticks,  
Slower and shorter\* then ;  
I was, before, but five feet six,  
And now I 'm five feet ten !

Yet many tread a higher crank,  
All modest is my zeal,  
I make the limits of my shank  
The bounds unto my wheel.

I clip high-climbing thoughts at sight  
Of rounds of swelling pride ;  
Their fate is worse than from the height  
Of sixty inches slide.

When cobblestones and crossings show  
Like breakers unto me,  
I do whatever I can do,  
And leave the rest to thee.

If casual falls delay our pace,  
Together we arise ;  
Quickly I reassume my place,  
And ride for exercise.

---

\* Four years ago "Mr. Punch" queried as to the growing diameter of the wheel and its effects on length of limb in the future.

By fall of wheels, and autumn years,  
Forewarned to be *more* wary,  
In 'Eighty-two he calmly steers  
A safe Xtraordinary.

---

## WHEEL VS. HORSE.

WHEN thou wouldst, O man, go ride,  
On the big bicycle glide ;  
Drive it round with sturdy glee,  
'Tis the fittest horse for thee.  
Prancers and trotters and pacers,  
Dexter and Maud S., the racers,  
Iroquois, Foxhall, that for us  
Beat those of Gaul and John Taurus,  
Though they be horses of quality,  
Match not the bicycle's jollity.

---

## CURRENTE BICYCLO.

UP-ATOP-OF-THE-WHEEL young man,  
Sort of cavalry-club young man,  
A spinner and sputter,  
And fall-in-the-dirter,  
More a leggy than army young man.

*RATHER THAN ROTA.*

RATHER take Spring out the year,  
Or from Spring her flowers,  
Have no grassy green appear  
All my Summer hours ;  
Than take Rota and its praise,  
Rolling Rota, from my days !

From the toper take his horn,  
Whether sweet or bitter,  
Let no "blossom" red adorn  
Him a bottle-quitter :  
Not take Rota and its art,  
Rolling Rota, from my heart.

Pierce the homeward carrier-dove  
With an arrow speeding,  
And arrest her flight of love  
Hawk or storm unheeding :  
Rota let fly whereso bent —  
Only in midwinter pent !

JUVENIS.

## THE PILGRIM.

BY SIR WALTER ROLLY.

GIVE me my bicycle of quiet,  
My horse of health to walk upon ;  
Enough of not pultaceous diet,—  
My tin of lubrication ;  
My hose and breeches (leg's true gauge) ;  
And thus I 'll take my pilgrimage.  
Then every happy day I beg  
More peaceful pilgrims I may see,  
That have cast off their nags of leg,  
And ride a-wheelback, just like me.

---

## THE LIGHT OF THE STUD.

BICYCLE 's the sun of our stable,  
His beams the spokes so fine ;  
We planets that so are able  
With him to roll and shine.  
Let circling mirth abound ;  
We 'll all grow bright  
With *borrowed* light,  
And shine as he goes round.

*CYCLUS PRO ME PREPARATUS.*

BY AUGUSTUS MOUNTAGEN TOPWHEELY.

WHEEL of England sent for me,  
Let me ride myself on thee :  
Let the young bicycling blood,  
Who the driven sides hath trod  
Of the crackly double goer,  
Teach me too its speed and power.

Labors of my head and hands  
Not fulfil my law's demands ;  
Could my toil no respite know,  
And my coffers overflow,  
For ill-health would not atone —  
One must save can't stand alone.

Rein nor whip in hand I bring,  
Simply to the cross I cling ;  
Cap and breeches have for dress  
And the coat of wheeliness.  
Fowl and Time and riches fly,  
Dash me, Cycle, so can I !

While I drive this fleeting wheel  
 Oft my trusty brake I feel ;  
 When I go down hills unknown,  
 S'pose I do get sometimes thrown ?  
 Wheel of England sent for me,  
 Let me ride myself on thee !

---

## A HYMNLET.

*Beati possidentes.*

HAPPY are we whose joys abound  
 High on the whirling rim,  
 Who Bicycle indeed have found,  
 And give the praise to him.

I leave the earth, I rise and go,  
 To be upheld and blest ;  
 His'n are both my soles below,  
 And that within my breast.

Long may we tread the rapid wheel  
 With undiverted feet ;  
 And strength subdue, and flaming zeal,  
 The steepest grades we meet.

### A PENSIVE SONGLET.

THE young who with rejoicing feel  
    The opening of life's sunny day,  
These are who hail the wingèd wheel  
    In all its bright and steel array.

Ride the bicycles while ye may,  
    Old Time is faster flying, flying,  
And what gay youth goes miles today,  
    Tomorrow may be lying dying.

S. A. D.

---

### THE PHANTOM OF DELIGHT.

A WORDSWORTHY VARIATION BY A RYDAL BARD.

It was a phantom of delight  
When first it gleamed upon my sight ;  
A lively apparition sent,  
To captivate a continent.

Its spokes as rays of starlight fair ;  
Like starlight, too, they twinkled where  
Bestriders hereabout were borne,  
From May-time until Christmas morn ;  
A stately shape, a racer gay,  
To mount, to start, and win the day.

I saw it upon nearer view,  
A horse, and yet a carriage, too !  
With foot-hold motions light and free,  
And steps to aid agility.  
Accounts are had — in which we meet  
Fleet records, promises as fleet ;  
A creature not too bright to scoot  
For human nature's daily foot ;  
For transient trips, or ample miles,  
Onward Rotator tears, and smiles.

And now I feel with hand serene  
The very pulse of the machine ;\*  
A being, breathing though no breath,  
A traveller e'en for life and death,

---

\* William's own line, of dubious fitness till now.

With rider firm, of temperate will,  
Of balance, eyesight, strength, and skill ;  
A perfect carriage, nobly planned  
To run with comfort, at command ;  
And yet a courser still and bright,  
Of forty pounds of pure delight.

---

**IN THE RUNNING'EM CO.'S SALESROOM.**

BY TWO RYDAL BARDS.

“TAX not the rotal Gait with vain expense,  
With ill-matched wheels the Artisan who planned  
(At first contriving for a jaunty band  
Of tight-breeched Britons only) these immense,  
And little, whirls of still circumference !  
Give all thou canst, my best expect no lower,  
The price is regulated less or more.”  
So spake who sold for merely dollars and cents  
These lofty spinners, that launching seat aloof,  
Self-poised to shoot over the hills and dells  
Where light and shade refresh, where Rustic dwells.  
Fingering and pondering them as both would fly,  
Our thoughts flew with a fleetness giving proof  
That we were born for high legerity.

*HYGEIA'S WHEEL.*

*Lux ecce surgit ferrea.*

SWIFT heralds bright  
With feet of might  
Upon bicycles stand,  
Sent to proclaim  
In John's high name  
Glad ridings to the land.  
Long miles they rove,  
They walk above,  
And "Come up hither!" cry,  
"The soles that climb  
Wheel's height sublime  
Catch Health upon the fly."

The little child,  
Who brightly smiled  
When red three-wheeler bore,  
Will leave that kind,—  
His growing mind  
Rides upon something more.  
With accents sweet  
His lips repeat

The chorus of the high :  
“ True soles that be  
From walk made free  
Catch Health upon the fly.”

Joy crowns our powers  
Some summer hours,  
And spring and autumn days ;  
'Mid winter snows  
We in repose  
Sing thoughts of rolly pace.  
Thus pales or burns  
Wheel's star by turns,  
As rolling seasons fly ;  
Both Winter's blight  
And Summer's light  
See bloom upon the Bi.

From health amiss  
To height of this  
When willing mortals strive,  
Wheel is their gain,  
And pace amain  
Shall keep their blood alive.

But higher still,  
O'er trouble's hill,  
Their force shall onward hie ;  
Till souls shall save  
Beyond the grave  
Their Health above the sky.

---

### A MERRY CAR.

BY SMITH ET AL.

BICYCLE, 't is of thee,  
Fleet car of levity,  
Of thee I sing :  
Wheel I and brothers ride,  
And on the still rim's pride,  
Up every high hill-side  
Drive the great ring.

Two-wheeler — or if three,  
Car of hilarity,  
The same I love ;

I hate the rocky ills  
That give me ugly spills,  
Yet my heart rather thrills —  
    See as above.

Make carols on the breeze,  
And wring from all the P's  
    Fleet wheeldom's song :  
Let walking ones awake,  
Let older gents partake,  
And, ready on the brake,  
    Fly down along !

Our Bisakel, to thee,  
Angel of wheelery,  
    To thee we sing :  
Long make our band be bright  
With wheeldom's rolly light ;  
Propel us by thy might,  
    Great pedal king.

*ELDERS, COME UP.*

J. D. + D.

CREEP ye no more, grave walkers,  
Why need you move so slow?  
Look now, the young wheel-stalkers —  
And have n't they got the go !  
But though sons easily rise,  
Father still keeping  
Sidewalks hies creeping,  
Dully, yet dully hies  
Creeping.

Wheel is a care-beguiling,  
A ride that years befits ;  
Doth not the son go smiling  
When fair on saddle he sits ?  
Ride you then, ride and rise,  
Doubt not in feeling  
While he flies wheeling,  
Softly, now softly flies  
Wheeling.

## TO MIDDEL AGER, ESQ.

J. D. + D.

LEAST of a bird, sublimely when you might  
Fly long and steep, to fail before the height !  
What if your dull forefathers did not fly,  
Could you not let a bad example die ?  
Wheelmen are risen into an airier way ;  
Your age does better to ride fast and gay.  
Good sense, then, in your worship would appear,  
Now to begin, and so go through the year.



## WINTRY MUSINGS.

*Habitus Bicyclicus.*

WHEN breezes are soft, and roads are hard,  
(Bicycle high with the slippery seat)  
Thou to my trying dost give reward,  
And wheel is my wheel for any meet.

For the drinking and eat of the day,  
(Bicycle high with the slippery seat)  
Oft am I bothered and scarce can pay,  
But wheel is my wheel for other meet.

When I, lone bachelor once, did sigh,  
(Bicycle high with the slippery seat)  
Thou didst me pity, and drew me nigh  
To wheel as my wheel for partner meet.

When I, since married for my sins, did cry,  
(Bicycle high with the slippery seat)  
Again didst pity, and made me fly !  
And wheel is my wheel for true helpmeet.

'T is winter time now, the year is young,  
(Bicycle high with the slippery seat)  
My ridings fail me, but may be sung,  
For wheel is my wheel for singing meet.

White as the snow is thy nickeled skin,  
(Bicycle high with the slippery seat)  
Though I can't drive it thro' thick and thin,  
The wheel is my wheel for surface meet.

My face paleth, my tread is low,  
(Bicycle high with the slippery seat)  
I merely sing you, but travel slow  
Till wheel is my wheel for early meet.

---

## ADAPTED ODE.

## THE TRYING 'CYCLER TO HIS WHEEL.

ROTAL bird of travelling fame,  
Let me quit this sort of game :  
Climbing, toppling, faltering, vying,  
Oh the strain, the hopes of trying !  
Peace, fond motor, cease the strife,  
And start me languid into life.

Hark ! they whistle ; 'cyclers say,  
Brother, *spin it right away.*—  
This is what abducts me quite !  
Steels my sinews, rears my height,  
Downs my troubles, stirs my pride ;  
High-metalled steed, is this your ride ?

The town recedes — it disappears !  
Fields open on my eyes, my ears  
With sounds viatic ring.  
On end, with wings, I dance, I fly !  
O horse, where is thy quick go-by ?  
Of chafe where is the sting ?

---

*"MY LOVE," A SPOOPSY POEM.*

BY PROF. HIGHWELL.

NOT as some other wheelers are  
Is she that to my sole is dear ;  
Her glorious fabric came from far,  
Beneath the silver morning star,  
To get her art in over here.

Great felloes hath she of her own,  
Which lesser wheels may never know ;  
John giveth them to her alone,  
And fleet they are as any one  
Direction winds may choose to blow.

But of herself she standeth not,  
Though many can not half so fair ;  
That simplest duty is forgot,—  
Yet hath she no dim rusty spot  
That doth not in her nickel share.

She hath no scorn of common folks,  
And though she is of other birth,  
Roundly her axle twirls, and spokes,  
And patiently she bears the jokes,  
And rides the Yankee paths of earth.

Blessing she is ; John made her so,  
And deeds of daily wheeliness  
Roll from her noiseless as the snow,—  
Nor will she ever chance to know  
That I'm a jackass, more or less.

*A HEADER.*

GOING leg after leg,  
(As the dog went to Dover)  
When he came to a stone,  
Down he went over.

## ROTA FELIX.

BEAUMOUNT &amp; FLEETCHER.

COME, Wheel, and with thy fleet reprieving,  
Rock me in delight awhile ;  
Let some pleasing roads beguile  
My reflections, so from thence  
They may take an influence  
All my sours of care relieving.

Though but a skeleton a-gliding,  
Life it brings for man or boy !  
Walkers suffer long annoy,  
Ill content with any thought  
In their laggard fancy wrought :  
Be mine the joys that come of riding !

*"GONDOLA" MADE BICYCLE.*

BY LORD BOYRUN.

DIDST ever see a Bicycle ? For fear  
You have not, I'll describe it you exactly :  
'T is an uncovered car that's common here,  
Steered at the front, built lightly but compactly,

Rode by one rider, not called bicyclier ;  
They glide along the highway looking crackly,  
Just as a witch clapt on a broom can go it,  
While some can't make out how it is they do it.

And up and down the avenues they go,  
And over the macadam shoot along,  
By day and night, all paces, swift or slow,  
And round the suburbs here, an able throng ;  
They ply no whip nor spur—and know no whoa,  
As not to them do woful things belong,  
For all times they maintain a deal of fun,  
Like wedding coaches when the mischief's done.

*RHYMES OF THE ROAD.*

BY LORD BOYRUN.

## I.

HORSES we hire no further ; and the rays  
Of bright wheels make sufficient holidays :  
Eloping past the green fields, trees and flowers,  
We, shining like the crawling brook, go by.

Clear as its current ride the glowing hours  
With a calm vigor, which, tho' to the eye  
Idlesse it seem, hath its own industry.  
If from the billowy we learn to dive,  
'T is bicycle should teach us how to fly ;  
It bears no flutterers, company can give  
No fellow aid — alone, man with his wheel must strive.

## II.

WHEEL of the many-twinkling spokes ! whose charms  
Are all extended up from legs to arms ;  
Bicycle ! though too long boneshaker made —  
Reproachful term, bestowed but to upbraid —  
Now Phœnix and a volant miracle,  
Flashing to view, immense but movable ;  
Henceforth in all the steel of brightness shine,  
The least a vaster than in 'Sixty-nine.  
Far be from thee and thine the name of rude ;  
Though yet triumphant, be our ways subdued.  
Our legs most move to conquer as they fly,  
If wheels and hopes are reasonably high.

---

THOSE roaming wheels, which swift as the gazelle  
So brightly bold go beautifully by,  
Win as they wander, dazzle where they dwell.

## SONNETS

BY WHEELIAM SHAKESPOKE.

## TO ABEL ELDER.

*Insistere rotis.*

I.

(7)

WHEN from the orient graceful Carrier light  
Sported his well-turned limbs, each under eye  
Made image of the new-appearing sight,  
Serving with gaze his saddled ministry.

An thou hadst climbed the steep-up Bicycle,  
Resuming strong youth in thy middle age,  
Yet-middling looks to his were semblable,  
Amending on his steely pilgrimage ;  
But when of highmost wheel, with wary care  
Like feeble age, thou reelest from the ray,  
Thine eyes, 'fore Gad, man ! now perverted are  
From his high act to seek the nether way :  
So, thou thyself low-going in thy noon,  
Look for no rise, unless thou get thee one.

## II.

(16)

THEN wherefore do not you an airy way  
 Make speed to shun this stealthy tiger, Time,  
 And 'forty-pound' yourself against decay?  
 Which means light one of fifty inch to climb!  
 Now stand you on the top of happy cranks,  
 And many centric sinews stiffly set,  
 A stable horse, would bear your lively shanks,  
 Much better than the panting counterfeit.  
 So should the hues of life that lift repair;  
 While toilet's pencil, or my truthful pen,  
 Neither in phys'nomy nor tract of hair,  
 Can draw you like yourself made young again:  
 To ride away yourself keeps yourself still,  
 And you most live, drawn by your own fleet skill.



## THE REASONS WHY.

*Alto ex Bicycli vertice.*

## I.

(76)

WHY is my verse so fertile of new ride,  
 So full of levitation and quick range?

And all the time why do I prance astride  
Of goodliest authors and make compounds strange?  
Why write I still of one (over the same),  
And laud invention in a noted steed,  
With very words in almost every name,  
Showing their worth where higher to proceed?  
Know ye, big bards, I love to link with you,—  
One great, one small wheel, on the road have led;  
So all my zest is spinning old song new,  
Speeding again what is already sped.  
Just like the riding rod I daily hold,  
So is my pen con-trolling what is trolled.

## II.

(59)

SAY there be nothing new, but all which is  
Was old before, should be their brains reviled  
Who, laboring with invention, bore in this  
The second burden of a buried child?  
O that could record with a rearward look  
Of many hundred circuits of the sun  
Show the like image in some antique book,  
Or prediluvian print in fossil done!  
That I might see what in that world made way  
For the combinèd meteors of this frame;

What they ascended, if slow or faster they,  
 Or wheely revolution be the same :  
 Then might I claim from wits of every time  
 The self-same right to reconstructed rhyme.

---

## TO BISAKEL.

*Cantilenam eandem canens.*

I.

(78)

OFTEN have I invoked thee for my muse,  
 And found a rare persistence in the verse,  
 Where every salient pen serveth my use,  
 And under thee our poesy disperse.  
 Thy rays that warmed the dumb on high to sing,  
 And heavy ambulance aloft to fly,  
 Have added wires to the poets' string,  
 And given grace to dual wheelery.  
 Thou art the guide of that which I compile,  
 Fair-spoken wheels and words belong to thee ;  
 Of others' works thou dost amend the style,  
 Their arts with thy fleet races racy be :  
 'T is thou art all my art, and dost advance  
 To vie with William my full countenance.

## II.

(38)

How can my mind want matter to invent,  
While there are books, and thou pour'st into verse  
Thine own fleet betterment, too highly bent  
For every vulgar paper to rehearse ?\*  
Then give thyself no care—if aught I see  
Worthy bestowal, and to gain thy right,  
Am not so dumb I cannot sing of thee,  
Who hast thyself given us invention light ;  
Thou, the tenth Muse, in these times more in worth  
Than those old nine which my bards invocate.  
And he still harping on, let him set forth  
Their subject numbers to outlive his date.  
If my light-fingering please these carious days,  
The stealth be mine, but thine the wealth and praise.

## SHAKESPOKE'S EPIGRAM.

YOUNG friend, for cyclus' sake forbear  
To bite the dust that 's ever near.  
Blest is the man avoids the stones,  
And curst is he that breaks his bones.

---

\* William's own line; some editors afeard!

**HIS MODERN HORSE.**

SEE THE "VENUS AND ADONIS."

HERE doth the artisan surpass the life  
In limbing and proportioning a steed  
For art with former horsemanship at strife  
Wherein the breed of metal can exceed ;  
Making his horse excel the common one  
In shape, endurance, temper, pace and bone.

Round-tired, short-headed, handles low and long,  
Ball bearings all, and treading nothing wide,  
Small weight, short cranks, stiff hollow fork and strong,  
With shining nickel or enamel hide ;  
All that a horse should be he doth not lack,—  
Nor the great riders for so small a back :

Ofttimes they range far off from work and cares ;  
Anon they start at racing, all together,  
To set the wind a pace that now compares,  
So fast they run or fly, with tempest weather !  
For 'mid the rushing wires the torn wind sings,  
And urging treadles dash like frightened wings.

**THE BICYCLER; A VAGARY.**

(Writer been taking something.)

HEARTI- and hardiness unite  
To give Bicycler's name a raise ;  
Most fairly seen in the clear light  
That fills 'excursions of two days.'

A knightly character he bears —  
Not that his business office knows ;  
Unfading is the coat he wears,  
If first-class tailor makes his clothes.

Cock of the walk for treading high,  
Elation shines upon his face —  
His coat, I say, is the real dye —  
His steps are levity and grace.

Inferior horses he disdains,  
Nor stoops to lower walks on earth ;  
John Taurus' goodly work maintains  
The expanses of his airy mirth.

The stoutest gent who struts below,  
When trained to fill a seat above,  
John gives him all he can bestow,  
His wheeldom of diurnal move.

Beer shall be lavished at the halt—  
Methinks from earth I see him rise!  
Clubbers convulse to see him vault,  
And shout him welcome to the wise!

---

## CAMPBELL, UNDONE AND OUTDONE.

WHEN oftentimes the young aerial beau  
Spans on bright arch the glittering wheels below,  
Why to yon upland turns the 'cycling eye,  
Whose misty outline mingles with the sky?  
Why do those tracts of soberer tint appear  
More meet than all the landscape shining near?  
'T is *distance* sends enchantment to his view,  
And lures the mounted with its azure hue.

*ALTA CANENS.*

## TO THE SURVIVORS OF THE SIXTY.

BY T. W. O.

SWEET poets of this move !  
Who sing, without design,  
The song of artful love,  
In unison with mine ;  
These echoing lays contain  
Full many notes of ours  
Which you ones cannot gain  
With less than boosted powers.

The wheel of nickeled charms  
Such hearts too seldom love,  
Although the treadle warms  
And lightens all above.  
How slow their classic things  
To this our modern lot,  
High-layrious Mount with springs, —  
And yet they seek them not !

Bi-writing cannot rest  
 Till rhymsters so improve,  
 That, reading and distrest,  
 Ye bards will join the move :  
 'T is happy, with its brakes  
 Beneath the chastening hand ;  
 But, doubtless, no great shakes  
 If you can't understand.

---

*APOLOGY.*

*Qui facit per alium facit per se.*

THAT which I sing is partly mine,  
 Dear son of Song, remade of thine ;  
 When thou hast learned to ride, shalt see  
 The perfect meaning found by me.

That song I made, it was not mine  
 When fraught with incense superfine,  
 Till, when thou sang'st it sweetly through,  
 I with my voice sang — making two.

All which I am, it is not mine :  
 The moon unto the earth doth shine —  
 Not of herself, but every ray  
 Quotes from a bright One far away.

---

## NON ASSUMPSIT.

YOUNG Rollo sat riding a wheel with his foot,  
 And he sang, " Will you come on the Flyer ? "  
 Tall middle-aged man had stood hitherto mute,  
 And now turned away, like an indolent brute,  
 And he said, " I'll not go any higher."

---

## ROTALIS EQUITATUS.

OH who can forget the first rides, after learning,  
 When wheeling gave life a new edge with its steel ;  
 And the soul, like those cakes made delicious by  
*turning*,  
 Gave out all its sweets up atop of the wheel !

Forth going in beauty from nation to nation,  
 Most lively and fleet its dominion shall be ;  
 Big poets proclaim it the best equitation,  
 And to roll ever on like the waves of the sea.

**LIFE ON THE PALE BICYCLE.**

BOSTON, MAY 30, 1881.

WALKERS attend, where wheelmen join  
Their annual meet today ;  
Your needs and aptitude combine  
To hail the vivacious way.

In heaven the virtuous ride began,  
When white bicyclic wire  
Among the feather-flappers ran,  
And strung a bolder lyre ;

And struck the wingèd with amaze  
To see new double suns  
Around the stellar orbits race  
And pass the common ones.

It filled the island kingdom too,  
When down to earth it rolled ;  
The size, the hue, and shape were new,  
And more than Britain could hold.

From o'er the sea, with cry "Ahoy ! "

An impetuous comer ran,

An angel one, with eager joy,

To tell the Yankee man.

A legion now obey the call

Where bards supply the song ;

"Good wheel and pace " is heard through all

The League A. W. throng.

To see life on the narrow trail,

The walkers will ascend !

Though steam and horse and boots should fail,

Its race shall never end.



### REJUVENATED.

But merely to measure

The road with a soundless

Quick whirl is a pleasure

Ranging antic and boundless :

My courting days o'er,

And my married gone after,

The Wheel doth restore

Me my youth and my laughter.

## MY CHOICE.

(OLDEN STYLE.)

THE coach or cart to ride I'm loath,  
Extremes are suited not for all ;  
On steely car, unlike them both,  
I surest sit, and fear no fall.  
This is my choice, for me I feel  
No ride is like the quiet wheel.

I grind no scissors, turn no mill,  
I bear no goods of any trade ;  
I skim the plain, I climb the hill,  
But greatest cities I evade,  
And laugh at them in care and pain  
Who render health for golden gain.

Come up betimes, thou heavy wight  
That keep'st the lower ways of brick !  
Rise now and walk the wires light  
While not too old to travel quick.  
Take to the saddle ere too late,  
True life goes with the rapid gait.

## SONNETS, AFTER E. B. B.

## I.

THE aspect of all things is changed, I think,  
Since first I set my footsteps where the wheel  
Moves still and firm beneath me as I steal  
Between the travel and the outer brink  
Of obvious headers. Now I, once near to sink,  
Am caught up into health, and learn the rôle  
Of life in new scenes, that the draught of dole  
Me given in wedlock I no longer drink.  
Praising the engine that I drive and steer,  
The names of coach and horse are flung away  
For our high art that shall be ever here ;  
And this, this dual song — of yesterday —  
The ardent poets join, and make appear  
Bicycle's name set bright in all we say.

## II.

My good bicycle ! that hast floated me  
From the scant walk of earth that I had known,  
And into many languid hours blown  
Breath vital, till my visage joyfully  
Beams out again, as any one can see,  
Above the pave or road ; my f-risky own,  
That camest to one withering and lone,

And rather booked for hearse than mounting thee !  
Having not made me quite a blooming lad,  
Careful I ride the Safety bicycle,  
Look back upon the trepid time I had  
On the simple wheel, and now, with diction "swell,"  
Bear witness here, — over roads good and bad  
That levers and great rake go mighty well.

---

#### THE WHEEL'S EXPRESSION.

WITH hammering touch and not deficient sound  
I strive intently to play up aright  
What music of our wheeling day and night  
On keys of thought and feeling I can pound,  
Artfully rendering all that rotal round  
With octaves of metallic ring and height  
Which answer quaintly to our ringèd flight  
From the red sidewalks of the city ground.  
In song my soul dilateth to declare  
To plodders the true onwardness I feel  
When riding by myself up in the air ;  
And while I go it, — as the thunder peal  
Breaks up its cloud, all troubles vanish there  
Before my loud apostrophe to wheel.

*ROUNDELS, AFTER SWINBURNE.*

---

I. VOICE OF WHEEL.

BICYCLE is wrought as a ring of the starry sphere,  
With craft of the light, but the winning of sound  
unsought, —  
For the art of the ride I should smile were't to pleasure the ear

Bicycle is wrought.

Its music is LYRA, rewritten of all or of aught —  
Love, worship, or woe — in resemblance of rapture,  
that clear

Fun-fancy can fashion to dwell in the ear of thought.

A mocking-bard's voice the sound, and ye hearken to  
hear

Note answer to note, and many a high strain caught  
Which mount my design where song as a psalm for  
mere

Bicycle is wrought !

II. IN PARLOR.

Outside of the glaze ye are shut in, lying  
Close from the air, and to ease or ails tied,

- What troop come swelling, the fine wheels plying,  
Outside?

They will not cease, they come to abide :  
Halest of this age in brightness hieing  
Pass and return on silence astride.

Ye hear not, but see ye not men as flying  
In the present that makes from the past that ride ?  
Will you stay peeping, the joy not trying  
Outside?

### III. SECURITY.

Wheel, as thou wilt, fain would I ride with thee,  
Now thou canst show, of all that men have built,  
Some roadster where our souls serene can be —  
Wheel, as thou wilt.

Not such as go in racing rush and tilt  
Impetuous, but meek seat on mild wheels three,  
Too low for poets' hope to have me killt ;

Or Safety two, where I may drive set free  
From check and strain and dread of getting spilt :  
So shalt thou give life often much to me,  
Wheel, as thou wilt !

*A QUESTION ANSWERED.*

(SWINBURNING STYLE.)

“ Of fear and of fate are bicycles fashioned,  
That the heads above them are dire and glum ? ”  
Nay, the faces of riders remain unashened,  
Chilled not with sense of a fall to come ;  
They bear the heart of the bold not craven,  
’Tis peace around them and grief is far,  
They hear no note from a night-hued raven  
Of death at the crossing bar.

Of no iron of doom are two-wheelers shapen,  
That sometime a rider may seem accurst,  
But the gnawing and weakness of hunger happen,  
And the throats of the boys are adry for thirst.  
Their seats are as towers from the cares that wither,  
And seldom is any struck wan by fear.  
An emulous rage for race sets hither,  
And the mode of the wise is clear.

Scant lives of many wax wide with the might of it,  
Uprising to rank with the hale and the sound ;

Spirit and sense go elated on height of it,  
To compass unlimited miles with it round ;  
The sense is most of a spurring scout-run,  
The spirit is much like a joy sublime,  
Of wheel to match and of speed to outrun  
The speed of the wheel of Time.

And forth they steer, as a yachting rover  
For a pleasure raid on the dancing brine,  
And highways carry their high horse over  
To the meads and furrows of corn and kine ;  
Where the long line halts amid gazing greeters  
In the blithe bright streets of the village plan  
Perplexed with sense of the strange quietus  
And height of machines that ran.

The whirl is left of the town's confusion,  
On the best of the wheels of revolving life  
Thro' wind and sun in their wide elusion  
From strife more rude than the seasons' strife.  
For the heart within them of late was busy  
To loose their souls as a sail unfurled ,  
They must needs escape for a while that dizzy  
Close toil of the weary world.

Too full, they say, is the world of trouble,  
Too tense with work are our walks on earth,  
And we turn for the gain and the relish of double  
    Delight to aspire on our wings of mirth.  
And life grows fervid in air more vital,  
    Where often the city's brood fain would flee,  
Where fully the lifts of the ride are requital  
    For falls there may happen to be.

---

A SONNET.

*Summa cum laude.*

LIKE to the leonine sunflower of flowers  
With yellow pride that domineers the sight,  
Or as among ships' signal lamps by night  
Their good revolving planet of the towers,  
O Wheel, thou shinest on this land of ours  
One altogether lively and upright !  
A feather-weight so fair, such onward powers,  
(Why bear a lantern, in thyself so light?)  
That oft enamored men of sober blood,  
Their earthly walk too tedious to abide,  
Transported on that seat above the mud  
Maintain a course no horseman can outride.  
Some moan their loss and wish they'd had the grace,  
Not knowing gout, to know this pedal pace.

SONNETS, AFTER FOREIGN SAMPLES.

---

## I. IN A RIDING RINK.

STAY not, with lingering foot, O learner,-here,  
Seek the expansion of the country ride ;  
Firm be thy step, thy heart will banish fear  
In brighter scenes this *posty* path denied,  
Far from the shade of tall and brick abodes,  
Where stand the suburb mansions of delight.  
Stay not, but on superior turnbike roads  
Find the best basis of bicycling height.  
And there to cheer thy firstly toilsome way,  
See many a coaster glitter down the hill !  
Breezes refreshing softly round thee play,  
Warm sunshine smiles — beware of headers still.  
Once skilful there, free of beginner's strife,  
Health is a certainty, and ride is life.

## II. OF SOME ROADS.

Selectmen ! why, where'er our rubbers tread,  
Afflict the road with rocks and ruts like these ?  
Ah, you — for we have reasonable dread  
To toil and pant where we should skim with ease —  
Deserve the frown severe, the language rude,  
From gentle wheelmen that come out your way !

Our semi-flyers must travel unsubdued,  
Like carrier-pigeons, not like birds of prey.  
Are we to contest new, in toils untried?  
No, we have common hinderance defied,  
And drawn fresh energy from every flight ;  
But the rough jolts of bumping on the wheel —  
With such incessant shock vibrating steel  
Shaky and brittle grows, if no less bright.

### III. A SENIOR'S INTENT.

Bicycle ride ! more lively than serene,  
Whether in urban streets or rural ways,  
Where health led me with so mercurial mien,  
Winging my feet these five years' fleeting days ;  
I must forbear your heights, and though my heart  
Declines the chances of your harms before,  
'Tis but ambition for a greater part —  
Still strengthening limbs will manage one wheel more !  
Let Tricycle through many a future day  
To distant towns this mortal form convey,  
Journeying inland or skirting ocean's wave ;  
Yet my song musical, to memory true,  
On thought's light pedals oft shall fly with you,  
And still, Bicycle, in your praises rave.

## A RONDEAU.

*Mens vivida in corpore sano.*

His sportive lyre bicyclist sought  
To ease his heart with love amort,  
But drew no music high or low  
Of charm to heal his hurt — although  
He took more red wine than he ought.

Along the strings his ear has caught  
A strain by wheely angel brought,  
And sweeps the shallows with its flow  
His sportive lyre !

Life thro' the ringing wires has wrought,  
Life in our puling poets naught,  
Who welter still in sap and woe ;  
While warm his soul and body glow  
To strike with renovation haught  
His sportive lyre.

---

ILL fares the man to bodily ails a prey,  
Whose gold accumulates and joys decay.

## IN "TRINITY" SQUARE, 1878.

*Sicut nobis sit cyclus omnibus.*

NOTABLE days in Boston were "of old,"  
When wheel on wheel of novel riding rolled  
Before her moneyed churches and around  
The multitude, whom chariots of no sound  
Charmed to a hush of wonder, and the rate  
And poise they witnessed in bicycle's gait.  
On the proud towers paused angels, seen by few,  
Some earnest genuflexions glad to view,  
And know that drivers of the better horse  
Were all upright men holding by the cross.

---

## URBS BICYCLICA.

BOSTON, Boston !  
What art thou the most on ?  
First riders and a host on  
Two-wheelers — first dealers,  
And bards that make loud boast on.

---

WHILE the horse agitations depart,  
And fair ladies in confidence roll,  
Bicycle is the lord of the art,  
And Tricycle right queen, on the whole.

*ROTA MUSIS AMICA.*

WHEN I rose to the wheeling,  
    My heart full of go,  
I entreated the song-bards  
    For bicycles to blow.  
To my pleading — no heeding,  
    Their silence said No ;  
That was no kind of answer  
    To a heart full of go.

In a wide quest of song,  
    On the heights and below,  
I caught me their brightest  
    Metres, music and glow ;  
And healing for wheeling  
    Their sick notes of woe,  
Assumed the full cheek  
    On our bugles to blow.

The round years have rolled,  
    Casting some of them low,  
And again there is pleading —  
    To the swift from the slow :

“Ah, Dalty, we’re faulty,  
But how could you do so !  
We must mount to catch up  
With that heart full of go.”

---

## A MODEST ASCIPTION.

IN THE GREEK MANNER.

WITH his sister Muses,  
Uranian and Hygeian Bisakel  
A spinning wreath of rose and laurel gave  
To be my chaplet : they had blown a spirit  
Bicyclic on my soul, that bade me set  
Wheels swift and safety-wheels to comic song ;  
Whereto they made me know the lofty bards,  
Their styles, firstly for best, ever considering.

---

## A WORD.

BEAR witness these, when Time  
Shall rate my book, that I  
Of the wheel lover, and fleet poesy,  
First topped them past my prime,  
And green in skill, though ripe, on both did fly.

## SON OF HYGEIA.

AFTER THE GREEK.

Son of Hygeia, wheelèd Bisakel,  
Thou of the potent spell  
Whose silent magic changeth mortal life !  
Thou with the gentle steel  
Dost proudest knights make feel  
How poor the snort and champ of horsey strife,  
And, granting automotive ride to men,  
Inspire tame hearts, and old turn young agen.

Over thy wheels is a sure seat for all  
That they may not down fall.

In our full sight some wizard youth rides One  
Wheel, and no other hath  
Following on the path !

And in his triumph needs no vile backbone :  
To all thou givest as their needs may be,  
Forty to sixty-inch, one, two, or three.

---

WITH horse-car, or by steam, we take the shortest  
route ;  
The way bicycle leads is a gay roundabout.

*A LAMENTATION.*

ALAS, the man was getting old,  
Head rather gray, and heart too cold.  
Full young the wheel that near inclined :  
Ah ! this to me by fate assigned ?

The thing, alas, was fair in form—  
His head was turned, his heart too warm ;  
He wildly roaming went to ride,  
And, trying flying, still would slide.

When heart on art of speed is bent,  
The smart of haste is accident.  
Too well the meaning many know  
Who rashly go, alas ! to woe.

The end, on wheel so fleet and young,  
Needs but the shortest pen or tongue ;  
Down hill, heels up, he fell too much,  
At last, alas, he used a crutch.

---

SOMETIMES even riders firstrate  
Are projected headlong prostrate.

*"XTRAORDINARY."*

## IV GRADUS AD CŒLUM.

WHEN in a state of trepidation  
We grew averse to the rotal ride,  
And after much of precipitation,  
More liable to pitch and slide,  
That was the time for our appearing  
Upon the superior Safety one ;  
And, rake enough to banish fearing,  
We mount up serenely,  
Mount up serenely for the run.

When over roads of a rough formation  
The leading riders carefully went,  
We got on apace to a situation  
Where some got off for a steep ascent.  
That was the time for our appearing,  
To show them more advantage still :  
With links and levers for a gearing,  
We mount up serenely,  
Mount up serenely any hill.

When in the realm of imagination  
Are seen so many feeble flights,

A safety method of elevation  
Is just the scheme to scale the heights.  
That is the time for our appearing  
In mutual aid with bards of mark :  
With them the lower regions clearing,  
    We mount up serenely,  
Mount up serenely like a lark.

When in a state of incineration  
These bones are powder to inurn,  
Soul will have skipt to a new location,  
Whence come the bright ones who return.  
That is the time for our appearing  
In Extra shape of the second birth !  
With facts not faith to banish fearing,  
    We mount up serenely,  
Mount up serenely from the earth.

*A SONGLET.*

I RODE when yesterday was bright :  
Today, that joy to be untried,  
I mourn the mud and cloudy height,  
The rotal hope although in sight

That some tomorrow soon I ride —  
Its any falls I must abide.

Or for tomorrow or today  
Is wheel a grief then? No, I say ;  
Because I let no future fright,  
And have the wheelman's sure delight  
Of still recalling yesterday,  
The ride unfalling yesterday !

JUVENIS.

*"HORSE SENSE."*

(OF SOME, BOSTON 1883.)

'Tis the notion of horse-trotting pride, —  
Each is welcome to what we enjoy,  
Whether driving his own, or one let ;  
But the rights of the wheelmen's ride  
We will run down and smash and destroy  
If on Sunday they chance to be met.  
For the Puritan laws still control,  
And the horse and his master are sole  
Lords of road and require the whole.

---

WHILE babes, men good or bad go on all-fours ;  
But afterward divide — to wheel, to horse.

## UNSATISFIED.

(OWING TO EMILY P.)

I SPIN all day from dawn till dark  
    Bestriding a phantom pale,  
And often I out-rise the lark,  
    Out-speed the summer gale ;  
While whether I halt by a cooling spring,  
    Or ride with a burning zest,  
A face that I know is following,  
    A voice in my vague unrest.

She haunts the sunshine and the shade,  
    The plain, the hill, the stream,  
Till I doubt if she be an earthly maid,  
    Or only a young man's dream.  
Astray if rapt with the phantoms bright,  
    My life may be truly blest  
When the homeing heart of the wheeling knight  
    Shall possess and be possest.

JUVENIS.

---

O-o are rings to ride, one runs ahead for mover,  
The other jumps to pitch the man a header over.

## ARE YOU READY?

ARE you ready for the meeting  
 With bicyclers in the air?  
 Longing for that wheely greeting  
 With the handsome many there?  
 If not ready, if not steady,  
 Oh, for that great way prepare !



## POST ROTAM ARNICA.

DRAWN PARTLY FROM LIFE.\*

THERE was a young man in Philadelphia  
 Who thought surely he would be healthier  
 To straddle a wheel  
 And ride a good deal —  
 He will buy him a horse when he's well-thier.  
 Such another young man lives in Boston,  
 Who was so exceedingly tost on  
 And off of his bike,  
 That he got him a trike,  
 Where he finds no erectitude lost on.

\* Also: —

“ Dies erit prægelida  
 Sinistra quum Bostonia.”

## WHEEL AND THE YEAR.

*The universe is God rotating.—OKEN.*

SING of the wheel, for it is fleet and comely,  
Whether you have it by the two, or three ;  
Cling to the wheel for rides abroad or homely,—  
And join the L. A. w., or c. t. c.  
To gaily move amid the scenes of nature,  
Its joke is easy and its burden light ;  
It lifts you fitly to a godlike stature,  
You of many a holy patent-right.

Sing of the year now following the olden,  
Around the royal sun to run its race :  
Ring of the wheels that lately us embolden  
Is rapt with somewhat of ecliptic pace.  
Shall they not speak of One who rolleth ever  
Upon the orbits vast that night reveals,  
Where boundless space and time can weary never  
The flight of Him who sits above his wheels ?

Sing of the wheel as minister of gladness  
Newly to many in the coming year ;  
Bring to the wheel the phys'nomy of sadness,  
For that is what such rides rejoice to clear.

Tell gentle souls that now Tricycle cometh,  
 The tamer kind that will not scare or maim ;  
 While Bicycle, as ever, speeds and hummeth,  
 And hardy bards collaud in loud acclaim.

PIUS ROTATOR.

1884.

By the same also are most of these :—

*WHEELY THOUGHTS AND EJACULATIONS.*

---

THE FINAL MEET.

AFTER HAFIZ.

WHEN the last solemn day of judgment shall break,  
 And all the world's collected races quake,  
 On a sixtytwo-inch, transcendent with zeal,  
 Shall be seen the guardian god of the wheel !  
 To the numberless multitude assembled there  
 This is the mandate that he will declare :  
 Come, all ye bicyclists, be blest on my right ;  
 Go, you faint legg'd ones, and sink from my sight.

---

WHILE the wheel holds out to turn,  
 The *milest* walker may go learn.

To me the rolling firmament displays  
A panorama of God's cycling ways.

---

LIKE treading water is the motion of his limbs,  
Yet swiftly thro' the air the bold two-wheelman swims.

---

WHEEL is a roadster of so flightful mien,  
To be high rated needs but to be seen ;  
And seeing oft, familiar with his pace,  
We wobble first, then travel, and then *race*.

---

ONE self-propelling hour whole days outshines  
Of vapid walkers, or of horse-car lines ;  
And more true joy bicycler axled feels  
Than driver with a trotter to his wheels.

---

HEREDITARY horsemen ! know ye not  
Who would be free, themselves must mount the wheel ?

---

LIKE Moses on his mount, the fine  
Bicyclist cuts a wondrous shine,  
Until he *strikes a rock*, and then  
They are quite different sort of men.

THE spacious wheel which here thy mortal eye doth  
see,  
Hath larger rolled with God from all eternity.

---

SOLES that are truly blest know much of wheeliness ;  
Left treadle doth the one, and right the other bless.  
Soul riseth too with body the hours you ride on high,  
And hour by hour to both a better life thereby.

---

THE silkworm doth turn to and spin till it can fly.  
Turn too, O man, or worm be stumpt and outdone  
by !

---

DRIVE out upon the road, there like a star to be,  
And wheel in orbit wide of calm celerity.

---

ONE smiling at the wheels, he crieth they are toys.  
Are they but toys, O man, which change our griefs to  
joys ?  
Such hasty judgments, from the slow, are strangely  
rife ;  
Shall chick unhatched discourse philosophy of life ?

## THE UPWARD GRAVITATION.

'Tis better far than all the elevation  
That cometh from the cup of inebriety  
To get high on the wheel of equitation,—  
And there we have the best of much called piety.

---

SMALL is wheel's Winter range, increasing in the  
Spring ;  
Summer the evening-runs, Autumn long rides doth  
bring.

---

WHEEL is so swift a thing that twinkling it can fly  
Down from the highest hill-top in the twinkling of an  
eye.

---

LET big wheel be my sun, and little one my moon,  
Then will my dullest times be made as bright as noon.

---

My first and second are much alike, except in size ;  
My whole upon the road was once a great surprise.

FAIR is Aurora's face, but on the wheel more fair,  
When with arising sun man riseth there.

---

O-o is the bike you are often on top, or  
The remark you will make after coming a cropper.  
Even such is the Xtra or Xspurt to straddle,  
You but add a small thing or two, chiefly a saddle.

---

62-INCH the highest is — rare he that knows it ;  
It takes the lengthy legs to perfectly enclose it.

---

WHEELS, in fleetest sort to bless us,  
In a mobile Twain must be ;  
But serenely to possess us,  
They must form a precious Three.

---

THOUGH wheel affects us in so many ways,  
It hardly reaches to our soular case :  
Heaven stoops, hell rises, to catch the soul of man,  
Who, doing both, so speeds that neither can.

---

IN currente rotâ qui sedet, pervolat terram.

## MOLLITER AMBULANS.

OUR airy feet with well known flight,  
Swift on the twinklings of the wire,  
Run up the hills that heave in sight,  
And leave the walking world to tire.

Cleave to the earth, ye booted ones,  
Contented kick your native dust !  
While old bicyclists and their sons  
Light-footed tread the wheel they trust.

---

'Tis the morning of life gives bicyclical lore,  
And coming wheels *can* cast their riders before

---

HEALTH and joy and youth returning,  
Here have fixed their leather seat ;  
With Bisakel our hearts are burning,  
He is with us when we meet.

---

SIDEWALKER creepeth to and fro,  
His leg is weak, his foot is low ;  
He hath no lyric song,  
His short way seemeth long.

EVEN on this wheel come all who can,  
And leave behind them the old man.

---

A TYPE in nature for bicycling souls,—  
Rivers can only run, great Ocean rolls !

---

#### PENSIVE IN A BONEYARD.

PERHAPS in this selected spot are laid  
Some legs once regnant on bicyclic wire,  
Hands that the rod of riding may have swayed,  
And waked to parody the rotal lyre.

---

EACH on his narrow seat of porcine hide,  
The gay forefathers of the future ride.

---

WESTWARD the horse Bicycle takes its way ;  
The four-foot one already passed,  
Now swiftly goes the charmer with the day :  
John's noblest offspring is his last.

## EQUITES ROTARUM.

THE errant-knights of latter song  
Are ever young and gay !  
They pass on leather heights along,  
Companions of the Day.  
There all their thoughts are rosy bright,  
And all their motions fleet,  
Their pedal ends in wingy flight  
The flitting treadles beat.



## TYRO'S SOLILOQUY.

— WHENCE this pleasing hope, this fond desire,  
This longing after rides on bicycles ?  
And whence this secret dread and inward horror  
Of falling in the mud ? Why shrinks the soul  
Back on herself, and starts at nasty croppers ?  
'T is the Divinity that stirs within us,  
'T is Bisakel himself points what we 're after,  
And intimates bicycling unto man, —  
Bicycling, that so pleasing, dreadful thought !

---

WHEN thou dost cry for health, the fountain here  
mayst see —  
Wheel, so thou use it oft, *runs* with salubrity.

## POEM OF THE RIDE.

## A PARODY-MOSAIC.

BY DALT WHEELMAN.

*Poetica surgit tempestas.*

1. SEATED, but erect, I take to the open road,  
Sturdy, free, the wheel beneath me,  
The long brown path before me, leading wherever I  
choose.
  
2. Allons ! Whoever you are, come travel with me !  
Travelling with me, you find what never tires.  
Omnes ! en masse, Americanos ! Libertad ! Re-  
pondez !  
I am he that walks on the rigid and rolling wheel ;  
I call to the rolling earth and sea, upheld by the  
wheel,  
Wheel of the wiry quietude ! Wheel of the small  
many spokes !  
Slim, trim, glossy, peculiar wheel ! Mad, gentle,  
skeleton, rubber, nickel wheel !

Behold the great rondure, all bright from central to  
extreme — the cohesion of all, how perfect !  
The fine centrifugal spokes of light, the quick, tremu-  
lous whirl of the wheels — the two wheels,  
twain but not twin.

3. I chant the chant of rotation or ride, a ride with a  
flying flavor ;

We have had crawling and perambulating about  
enough.

I show that wheel is only development.

From this hour, freedom, and a sprightly domination !  
From this hour, we ordain ourselves loosed of limits  
and all horse-car lines,

Going where we list — our own motors, rotal and  
resolute.

4. Here is realization, the requisite realization of  
health ;

Here is a man rallied, and he fires up what he has in  
him.

Sublimed upon the zenith of a wheel, I ride the tri-  
umphal arch of hygienic hilarity.

I tread the pedal orbits with plunging feet ;  
I dance and equilibrise on the revolving stilts ;  
Trampling strong to the hill-tops, and shooting the  
rapids down.

My foothold is tenoned and mortised in confidence,  
And I know the amplitude of space.  
Mine is the wheel of the most high, a sixty-incher.  
Earth ! you seem to look for something at my feet ;  
Say, old Stop-not ! what do you want ?  
Far-swooping, whirling Earth, with the trailing satellite,  
Smile, for your Bicycler comes ! We it is who balance  
ourselves, orbic and stellar.

We must have a turn together — beat the gong of  
revolution for our rouse and early start.

5. Long had I walked my cities, my country roads  
and farms, only half-satisfied.

I heard what was said of the universe, its immensities  
of space and time, its orbits of stars and plan-  
ets, its chronological, geological and astronom-  
ical cycles ;

It is middling well as far as it goes, — But is that  
all ?

Belonging to the winders of the circuit of circuits, my words are words of a questioning, and to indicate rotality and motive-power.

I know perfectly well my own legotism ; One of that centripetal and centrifugal band, full of the power of the wheely boast, I turn and talk like an engine blowing off steam after a journey.

6. I rise elastic through all, sweep with the true levitation,

The whirling of wheeling elemental and primeval within me ;

In a higher walk of life, an unearthly walk.

That I ride and speak is spectacle enough for the great authors and schools — me imperturbe, aplomb, orotund, turbulent, emerging superb.

I harbinge, I promulge, I propound haughty and gigantic enigmas.

I step up to say I am a Chaos, a pied marauder on the rampage !

I sound my sarcastic whoop over the bardic habits — rhyme and metres to the perfect literats of America.

Do you take it I would astonish ?

Does the sunrise astonish? Does the early milkman,  
rattling over the stones?  
Do I astonish more than they? Would you have  
delicate thunderbolts?

7. I launch forward, I propel the r-ideal man, the  
American of the future,  
For I see that power is funded in a great bicyclism.  
What do you suppose will satisfy the Soul except to  
walk free upon a superior bicycle?  
Imbued as they—active, receptive, often silent as  
they?  
They do not seem to me like the old specimens.  
They seem to me at last as perfect as the animals—  
to that the revolving cycles truly and steadily  
rolled.

8. O for the paces of animals! O for the swiftness  
and balance of fishes and the birds!  
O to be self-balanced for contingencies!  
I am an ostrich, an albatross, a condor of the Andes,  
I am tattooed with antelopes and birds all over,  
And have distanced what is behind me for good  
reasons.

O to cling close to something afar off, something  
precarious and uproarious !

To push with resistless way, and speed off in the dis-  
tance,

To speed where there is space enough and air enough  
at last !

I breathe the air and leave plenty after me.

9. You there, hesitant, limp in the knees, walking  
humbly, lamenting your sins ;

Down-footed doubters, dull and excluded ; you are  
eligible !

What have I to do with lamentation ?

How is it I extract strength from the beef I eat ?

I trip forth replenished with serene power on the  
bright ring of ride, the ensemble of the orbic  
frame, the great Biune.

On cycles fit for reception I start bigger and nimbler  
lads.

This way I am getting the stuff of more elevated re-  
publicans ;

They are tanned in the face by glowing suns and  
blowing winds,

Their flesh has the old divine suppleness and strength.

10. Men of the rolly vantage, I salute you !  
I see the approach of your numberless clubs — I see  
    you understand yourselves and me.  
Vivas to those who are weaned from walking and go  
    the many-mileing gait !  
I beat triumphal drums with my head,  
I blow through all my embouchures my loudest and  
    gayest music to you.  
We slip the trammels of space and time, we level  
    poise our glittering flight ;  
Inland and by the sea-coast and boundary lines, and  
    we pass all boundary lines.  
Our swift ordinances are on their way over the whole  
    earth.  
With wingy gait and all ways so prononcé,  
We roam accepted everywhere,  
Scouting along exalté as with a fierce magical elixir,  
Spurning for good the clods the bricks that clung so  
    long to the feet of man.

---

THIS with apologies to the Poet of Humanity and America — and so to a more mine one :

## CHANTING THE ROUND MIRIFIC.

*Vox clamantis in bicyclo.*

1. CHANTING the round mirific, out with the two emerging, out for a ride,  
 Out with the young and older, with the sleek and rolly one, the hygienic horse,  
 Hollow, two-sided (both the sides needed,) the noiseless obedient one,  
 In itself narrow, its range so wide, so express ;  
 I culminate, I move abroad.

2. To espouse, warily (once wed-linked to a cranky dame tigerish,) to annex anew and for sure,  
 My choice for consort was clear at last :  
 If that which ran in front go behind,  
 And that which went behind advance to the front,  
 Not for me the reversal — spinal slope and step-up clean gone !  
 Nor a very facile low wheel, too like the old the shape for bones and bowels shaking ;  
 Nor the Yankee Xspurt, or any too fast and fickle one.

For me the Safety and comfort, the Xtraordinaire, the  
levers, the wee walking beams the links, the  
much rake.

(Made by Singer & Co.— I one such also,  
Scooping many into my company.)

Uphoist on that the mighty auxiliar, the wheely of  
wheelies,

As Ulysses bestriding the log for a sea-horse,  
But more like an elderly bird aquiline (bawl'd headed  
perhaps,) I fare forward.

With easy grip and measured tread I run steadily,  
fearless, pressing with perpendicular feet,  
Chanting at intervals the songs of the risen sons.

3. I am for all who walk awheel on the whole earth,  
my camerados,

The weak and slowly wobblers too, but probably more  
for the high-propt, full-lunged and limber-legged  
of long trial :

The trained competitors, the scorchers, with the sibilant hum of their raceful wheels ;

The forthsteppers to the far-stretching circuits and  
vistas of the winding and undulating ride,

Before whom latitude narrows, longitude contracts,—  
Who stand-sit poised aflight in the saddle, launching  
there over the world.

4. I mind yet the crowds held of the old drag-on  
horsecar, or laggard on the trottoirs—to me  
they are but torpid somnambules creeping,  
blinking.

O the endless herds of the wheelless, my cities filled  
with the wheelless !

Them languished with plodding to uplift and advance,  
renerve, toughen and expedite,

To enthuse them to rotality, self-pulsion, erectitude,—  
knee breeches,

These many poems I pour, containing the start for  
each and most ;

And to supply myself and adepts with songs fit for  
these mounts ;

Songs soular and corporal, arrogant, pensive, saccha-  
rine, satiric,

Health's inlet songs, loud-lauding, bombastic lays,  
jocular sublimities,

Biggest dictionary not sufficing, and six languages

needed — me too polyglot, putting on too much style ;

(Any scraps of error, for the linguistic and pluperfect literats carelessly leaving) ;

High-footed and high-handed, dual, combinante song, assuming all —

Harp of many strings, songs of great poets made perfect. I give and take.

I would finish specimens, as nature does, each crystal particular polished and precise ;

I am no Kosmos, but nature will do for me.

Bad form befits not Rota's lines, or men.

I never slop over (hardly over) or bite off more than I can chew ;

I do not my breast thump and bellow like a gorilla bard (not much).

5. Enough : I cease, I pass, contented I repress many things, —

The melange, the froth and float, the débris, the interminable catalogue and inventory, the geographical spread, the tireless splurges (me militant and vaunting), the exposé, the tender and solemn bawdy-talk, withheld for reasons.

Whist ! I ride quietly by ; menacing, taciturn, absorbing  
effusing much, I depart.

DALT WHEELMAN.

---

SOME amende to the master is due here from the  
refractory pupil :—

WHEN in a state of puffed laudation  
Soft poets of the period shine,  
Live souls will hail any emanation  
Of song from genius genuine.  
That is the time for his appearing,  
Wild Walt whom nature greatly leads :  
With oaks and pines around uprearing,  
We look up regardless,  
Look up regardless of the weeds.

---

To write in the common effeminate vein  
Employs mighty little of blood or of brain :  
*Mediocritus* mainly intent we behold  
Not that books may be real, but that books may  
be sold ;  
And as head has so little to do with the sale,  
Many volumes are female expanse in the tale.

## A DUET.

SUPER-TRANSLATED FROM A PERSIAN POET.

QUOTH *D.*, in swelling song who tries  
 With beams of light from poet-stars  
 To paint it as a fine disguise  
 Upon bicycle's iron bars :

It plagues you Fogies that I sing  
 New life by forms of metal shine ;  
 And naught of roses, love and spring,  
 The azure sky, or ruby wine.

*F.*— 'Tis rankly wrong to boast and praise  
 The *ignis fat'* or tallow candle,  
 And of the Sun's all-giving rays  
 No panegyrics ever handle.

*D.*— Most like the early sun's award,  
 I strike up to the high things round !  
 Our whizzing wheels I must applaud  
 Above what make the common sound.

Let bigger bards their lyres attune  
 To wars and woes, and fame and kings ;

And roses, wine, or love and moon,  
Suit not the steel of wire strings.

*F.* — O poemster wild, how flagrant are  
Thy carols on unlovely themes !  
The Hades' gates are now ajar  
To shut-in you with dismal screams.

---

**EGO; PRIVATE AND POSTHUMOUS.**

AFTER BOCCACCIO ON DANTE.

DALTY am I, Parodia's son, who grew  
By others' genius (but no style unsure —  
All elegance composite and mature),  
My theme mere bicycle to common view.  
Thro' paths pedalian and Castalian flew  
My rolling fancy, up Parnasse secure,  
For long time shall my gay sublime endure,  
Fit to be read of men and women true.  
Abby my widow-spouse's dear front name ;  
Beloved by me — whom from her side she thrust !  
Her beauteous sons' cantankerous ways to blame.  
B. Bi. C. housed my axle, hold my dust  
It will what time cremation inurns the same,  
Or my wronged shade will feel it most unjust.

I INCLUDE here the following few scurrilous pieces because the young penholders seem to have adopted my method, though only to misstate it and abuse the methodist — the travelling elder :—

*TO THE "POEMSTER."*

You that go gathering at every spring  
Which from the veins of old Parnassus flows,  
And many a flower of rarest hue that blows  
Near thereabout into your versing wring ;  
You that big-dictionary plunder bring  
Into your rhymes, running in rattling rows ;  
You that some poet's long deceasèd woes,  
Or new-born sighs, on dizened wires do string ;  
You take wrong ways, those crooked turns be such  
As do betray a want of inward touch ;  
And sure at last stolen goods do come to light.  
But if you have a hope ro raise your name  
To ride upon "a sixty-inch " of fame,  
Stealing be quit, and then begin to write.

SIDNEY.

## TO A CERTAIN PARODIST.

WHEN decked in alien garb you shine,  
And tune your oft felonious notes,  
You seem a trickster of the Nine,  
Or Davis Jeff in petticoats.  
And surely when your song you fling,  
Your saucy song with subtle art,  
Your pen's an iron-tonic thing  
And often frets the gentle heart.

---

YOU'VE showed yourself a sinful creetur,  
You've murdered poets and stole their metre,  
Have dared the best of all to alter  
For sonnets in your cycling psalter,—  
And for your pains deserve a halter.

HOSTIS.

TRUE people cry  
To him,—O fie !  
Why don't you make your own?  
Good reason why,  
Just like the Bi.,  
He cannot stand alone.

## CLOSING HYMN.

BY PIUS ROTATOR.

NEARER, my Wheel, to thee,  
Nearer to thee !  
E'en though it be a pig-  
Skin seateth me,  
Still all my song shall be,  
Nearer, my wheel, to thee,  
Nearer to thee.

Though, like a blunderer,  
I have gone down,  
Hind wheel right over me,  
Because a stone  
Got in my track — I'd be  
Nearer, my wheel, to thee,  
Nearer to thee.

I know the way to climb  
Steps unto saddle,—  
All scapes thou sendest me,  
On I skedaddle ;

All the more reckon me  
Nearer, my wheel, to thee,  
    Nearer to thee.

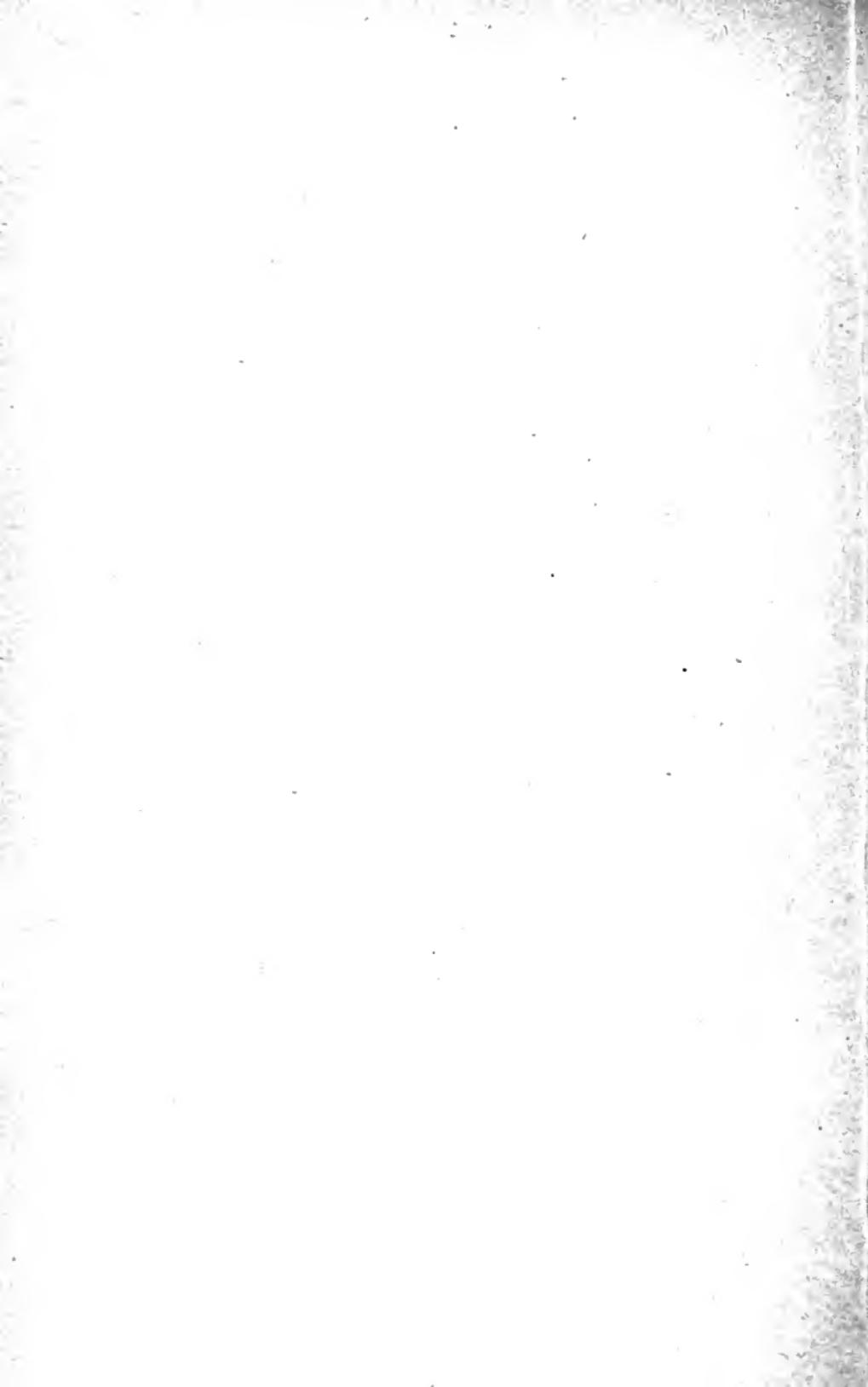
Even my walking thoughts  
    Bright with thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs  
    No h—ll I'll raise ;  
So by my rubs to be  
    Nearer, my wheel, to thee,  
    Nearer to thee.

And when on joyful wire  
    Cleaving the air,  
Bruises and bumps forgot,  
    Onwards I tear,  
Sure all my song shall be,  
    Nearer, my wheel, to thee,  
    Nearer to thee !

---

SINCE when a warbling eagle wheeled among birds,  
Night-outing owls are not accounted song-birds.

END.



POSTSCRIPT.—Reader, you and I have herein disagreed extremely over some things (you mostly in the wrong); let us now make it up over the wheelman's drink,

## A POT OF ALE.

BY MALT WITMAN.

(See Ritson's "Select Collection.")

To light up the rays of mirth in the face,  
And make a man's state to be happy and hale,  
Not drunken nor sober, but neighbor to both,  
There is nothing will serve like a pot of good ale.

Be he lowly and poor, a plowman or boor,  
So much will its flattering humor prevail,  
He speaks no less things than of lords and of kings,  
If he touch but the foam of a pot of good ale.

And the good old clerk whose sight waxeth dark,  
And ever he thinks the print is too pale,  
He will see every letter, and say service better,  
With a glaze on his eyes from a pot of good ale.

The poet divine, who cannot reach wine,  
Because that his money too often doth fail,  
Will hit on the vein to make a rare strain,  
If he be but endowed with a pot of good ale.

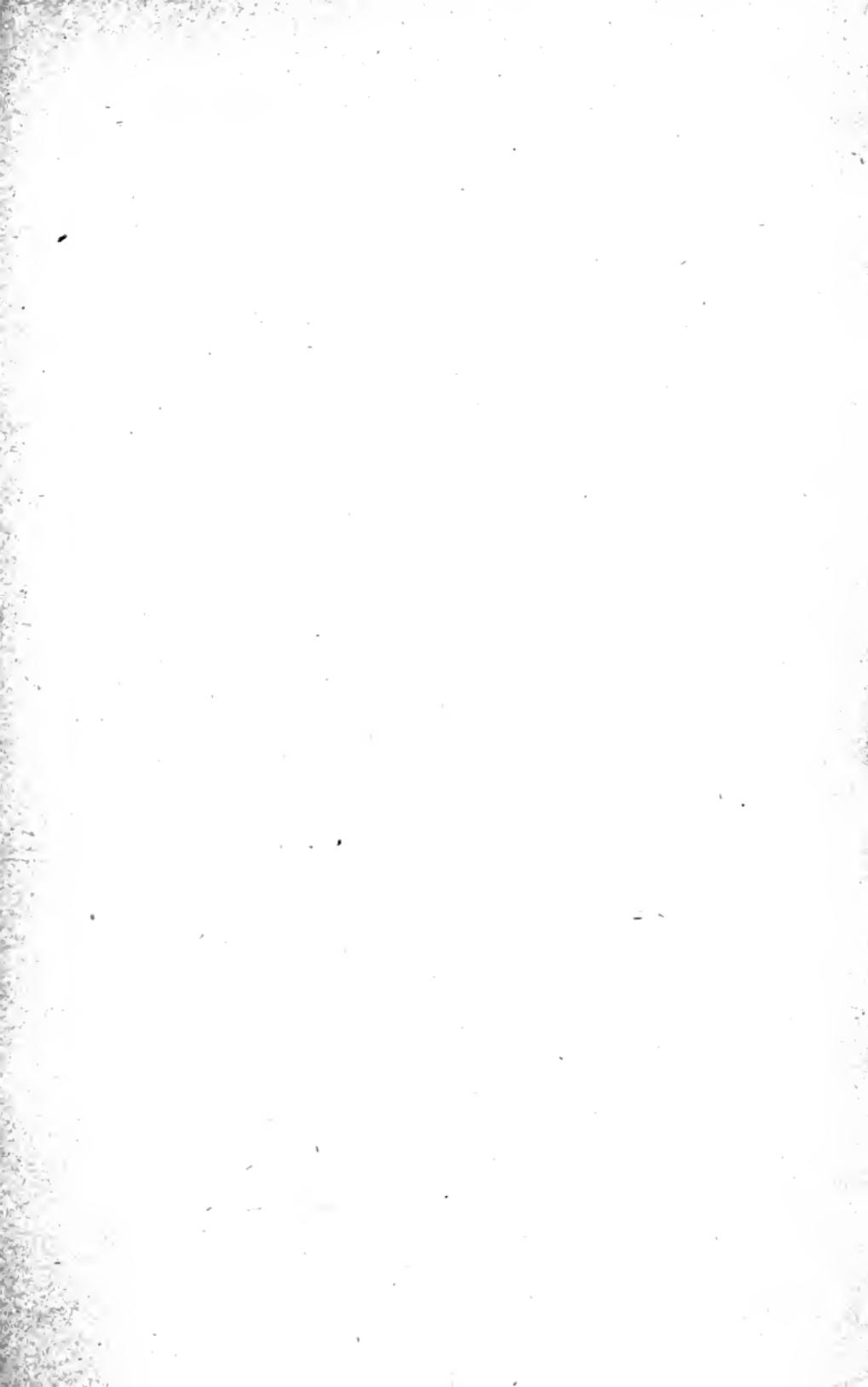
Thus it helps speech and wit, and it hurts not a bit,  
But rather doth further, the virtues' morale ;  
'Thereof you may know if a little I show  
The high moral parts of a pot of good ale.

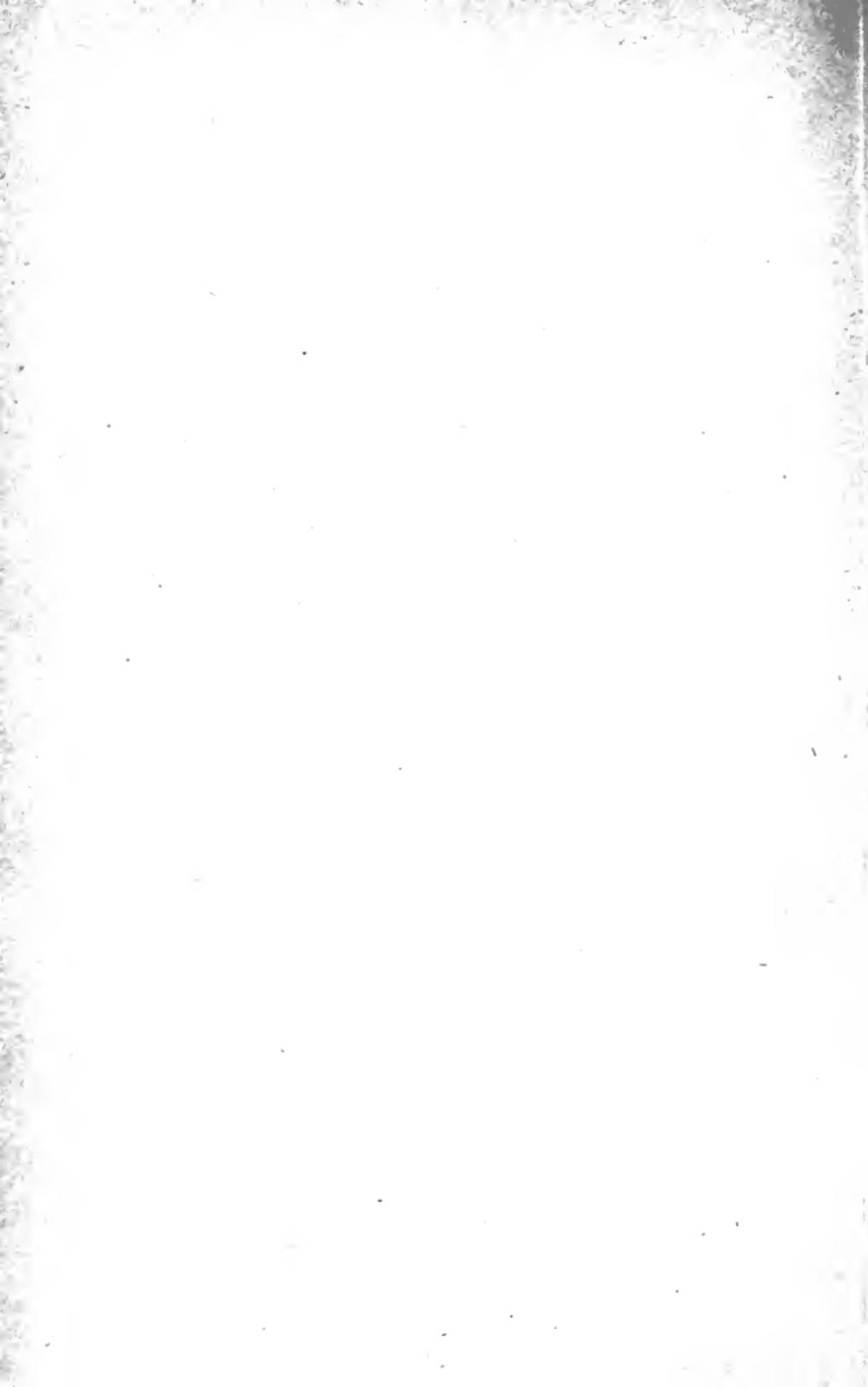
Truth will do it right for it brings truth to light,  
And many bad matters begin to unveil ;  
For men to their drink will say what they think —  
Tom Tell-troth lies hid in a pot of good ale.

And next I allege it gives courage an edge ;  
Even he that by nature recoils like a snail,  
Will swear and will swagger, and out with his dagger,  
If he buckle his belt on a pot of good ale.

Each soldier of Britain, as all will admit,  
A dozen or more souping Frenchmen can wale ;  
He makes 'em afeard, for he liquors his beard  
With the valorous dash of a pot of good ale.

O Ale, *ab alendo* — to drink and commend,  
That I had but a mouth as big as a whale !  
For mine is too scant to supply all I want,  
Or resound worthy praise of a pot of good ale.







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